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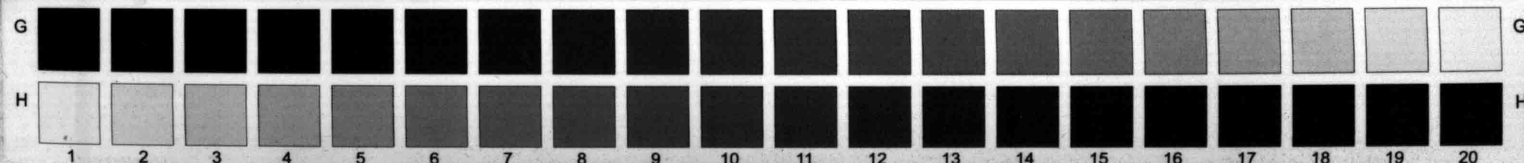
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Correspondence.

MR. A. CHAUDHURY'S SPEECH AT THE BURDWAN CONFERENCE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR.—The speech of the President at the last Bengal Provincial Conference calls for a few remarks and I shall be much obliged to you if you kindly insert in your valued paper the following lines.

The speech of my friend Mr. A. Chaudhury, able as it is, is a bit too pessimistic at times too optimistic too. There is in it an undertone of despondency. It also smacks of fatalism here and there. The dominant note of the speech is not exactly the note of the great majority of the educated Indians and I believe it is faulty in one all-important respect.

The key-note of the speech is that as "a subject race has no politics," we Indians can have no politics and that "our salvation lies in the industrial development of the country." Now it can be at once admitted that there is a great deal of truth in these statements. But it must also be admitted that they do not contain the whole truth. Why can not a subject race like the Indians have politics? It is true we can not have politics in the sense in which a free country has or can have it. But surely it is but human nature and it is to its (the race's) interest that even a subject race should have its politics. Even the negroes of South Africa have their politics and who will say that they have not gained or will not gain more by it than they have lost or will lose? Educated India must have her politics. That is one of the most natural and inevitable results of education, as we shall see presently. And it is to her interest that she should have it. No one doubts that industrial development is one of the great factors of a country's salvation. But that development "alone" can not save a nation, for the very simple reason that a nation cannot have that development alone. A nation cannot have an industrial development that is worth having and that will save her, without having at the same time a certain amount of political freedom—a sort of practical self-government. The factors of true progress, of true salvation are interdependent; one cannot work satisfactorily and fully without the help of the rest. Never in the history of the world thus has a nation attained to saving industrial development without a sort of practical self-government. The past history of India itself is eloquent about it. Over and over again has the industrial development of the country, such as it was, been checked in the interests of the ruling race, and that both directly and indirectly. Reasoning on this line alone will show that the above two fundamental propositions of Mr. Chaudhury are too unbalanced and too sweeping, that they are only partially true. The truth is that educated India must have both—industrial development and politics;—she can not have one without the other.

Mr. Chaudhury's words certainly tend to show that he discountenances the present day political agitation by the educated Indians. That agitation is, of course, in its infancy. There is certainly room for alteration and improvement. Some of its methods may be and are faulty. But surely Mr. Chaudhury can not deny that the principle that underlies it is sound. That agitation has on many an occasion made the Government pause and reflect; it has on several occasions caused the Government to alter its mind; it has on all occasions shown to the Government that the educated Indians are not the babies they were or are taken to be, that, although impotent they can very easily see what Government measures are bound to do harm to them; it has shown to the Indians that if the organization were stronger, its success would be greater too. This direct result of the agitation is certainly a gain. But the indirect result is a much greater gain. The agitation has in many cases called into existence and in many others strengthened the sacred feeling of patriotism; it has promoted interchange of ideas amongst the educated Indians living hundreds of miles apart; it has been their one great rallying point; it has tended to unify the educated Indians of different castes, different races and different nationalities, speaking different dialects and languages and professing different religions. This indirect result alone is a sufficient justification for its existence.

It may be questioned whether the gain, direct and indirect, from the agitation has been commensurate with the amount of energy spent. It may not have been so. In that case it was the methods that were to blame and not the principle. And if the principle is sound, as everybody must admit it is, you can not say that "a subject race has no politics." We should rather say that a subject race has all the greater need of politics, because it is a subject race.

It can easily be shown by means of his own statements that Mr. Chaudhury's position with regard to the question whether educated India can have any politics, is untenable. He has laid and very properly laid very great stress on our need of "scientific and industrial advancement." Now, broad general education with a greater diffusion of that advancement is a "sine qua non" for that advancement. With regard to this point there can be no difference of opinion. We all recognize the supreme importance of education—general, scientific and technical. We all know that it is the one great panacea for many an evil, for many an ill we are heir to. Very well. But education begets patriotism and patriotism begets politics. Therefore, India cannot have education without having politics. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Chaudhury's utterances on this all-important point were one-sided. Overwhelmed with a deep sense of the imperative need of scientific and industrial education and development he got carried away in one particular direction, a little bit too far. He could not weigh his words—a mistake which our public men are very liable to commit and which Mr. Chaudhury ought to have been the last man to have made.

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Attempts made in certain quarters to gloss over the cardinal defects of Mr. Chaudhury's speech notwithstanding, it must be said that my good friend's mood when he made the speech, was sometimes too pessimistic, sometimes too optimistic and occasionally too fatalistic. I need not stop to examine his statement that we possess no political traditions. It would not bear a moment's examination. We must not, according to Mr. Chaudhury, call a spade spade lest it should "irritate" the Government. We must "give up what has been called political agitation" last we should be "vilified as professional agitators." I did not, I confess, know that my friend was so thin-skinned as that! We must give it up also because, according to Mr. Chaudhury it has done "no" good either to us or to the Government. Every candid observer must say that the statement is too sweeping. "We," says Mr. Chaudhury "are a quiet, law-abiding people, peace-loving citizens. Why invite strife....." So, according to Mr. Chaudhury we must not utter a single word even though a palpable act of injustice be inflicted on us. Surely oriental supineness and apathetic resignation can not go further! "The work of administration is going on smoothly," So says Mr. Chaudhury. Ah! smoothly forsooth! when millions of our countrymen are almost every year smoothly dying of starvation and when millions, year in year out, smoothly do not know what two square miles a day mean!

"We," says Mr. Chaudhury "are much better off in this country in various respects than several nations in Europe." I do not know what exactly the meaning of my friend's wish he had more explicitly mentioned in what particular respects he thought we were better off. One of these "respects" vaguely suggests itself to my mind. I suppose Mr. Chaudhury had in his mind, amongst other things, the so-called greater freedom of speech enjoyed by the people and the press here. If so, then I must ask him to point to one single European country in which such freedom of speech is more harmless than in India. "Great benefits," according to Mr. Chaudhury, have been "willingly given to us by our Governors 'without solicitation or suggestion.'" True, but isn't there a dark side to this picture? Is it not also true that our Governors have given with one hand and taken away with the other? When you think of the "great benefits" think also of the terribly paralyzing drain inflicted by the Home Charges, think of the abolition of the indigenous salt industry, think of the utter emasculation of the country by the Arms Act, think also of the extreme poverty of the people.

"The destiny," says Mr. Chaudhury "of a nation cannot be hastened." This is perilously near fatalism. This, however, is not the place, nor have I the time to enter into a discussion of such a barren fatalistic proposition. What we ought to remember in this connection is that just as we can hasten the cure of a patient by judicious and rational positive and negative means, even so can we hasten the cure of a diseased nation by suitable means. "If Asia," says Mr. Chaudhury has been in "dotage buried," it is God's will and not Europe's will. Whether it is God's will or Satan's will I know not, but I know this that it is the duty of every Asiatic, of every human being, Asiatic or non-Asiatic, to rejuvenate her. "The power of God," if it is in us, can not die." This position also smacks of fatalism. Mr. Chaudhury might well have spared his trouble of framing it and the Conference the trouble of listening to it. "Look at Japan," says Mr. Chaudhury. Yes, look at her. Could she have achieved the success in the scientific and industrial race that she has done, had her political circumstances been not favourable? But we must stop here.

One word more. A short-sighted writer of an apologetic article in an esteemed paper would make Mr. Chaudhury's proposition, "A subject race has no politics," the motto of educated India. No, no, no. Ten thousand times no. An individual without an ideal, without hope and aspiration is practically a dead man. A nation without a national ideal without hope and aspiration is practically a dead nation. We must have a comprehensive political ideal and strenuously strive after the realization of that ideal. All other ideals of ours must be subordinated to this supreme ideal. Our ideal, at present, is complete autonomy under the aegis of Britain. Let us not think for a moment, as some ill-informed people do, that it is a new ideal. No. Under one name or another it has been preached by our old political leaders time and again. It is also the best ideal that we can have under the present circumstances of the country. And who will say that it is an unrealistic ideal? To such a man, the fact that the elements that go to form a great nation are there and that a welding force is all that is necessary is a standing and crushing reply. Let us also pluck courage and hope from the fact that by keeping before our eyes that holy ideal and earnestly endeavouring to realize it, we are and shall be surefootedly working with, and not running counter to, the irresistible forces that for acon past have been working out the evolution of the human race—the forces that have been and are making for liberty and righteousness and peace and good will. Let us also encourage ourselves by the contemplation of the fact (which is almost a corollary of the fact just mentioned) that our national ideal is not in conflict with but in strict accord with, is in fact, a part and parcel of the high humanitarian political ideal that is gathering force every day and that is inspiring the best, the wisest, the noblest of the human race all the world over—the ideal viz. that a nation, unless it infringes on the rights and freedom of another nation should be let alone to work out its own destiny, to develop its own possibilities. We can not go far wrong in having our natural ideal and in struggling to realize it. Let us therefore, labour together in that Holy Cause with one desire, one faith and one hope.

S. B. MITRA B. Sc., M. B. (Lond.)
Calcutta, 5-7-04.

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THE PORT COMMISSIONERS' CASE.

MR. NICOLL CONVICTED.

On Thursday morning, before Mr. Donald Weston, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Mr. G. S. E. Nicoll, Assistant Secretary, Port Commissioners, was re-arraigned on a charge of criminal breach of trust in respect of Rs. 1,200.

The Court delivered the following judgment:—

The accused in this case was Assistant Secretary to the Port Commissioners, and had among other duties, the direction and supervision of all disbursements on their behalf. The cash was immediately in charge of a native treasurer, a subordinate of the accused. When money was required for urgent payments such as Custom House charges etc., the accused used to send the treasurer a signed slip for the amount, and the latter would advance the money, later the slip would be replaced by a regular bill, and the transaction which had till then figured only in a Sum item in the cash balance book, would be specifically entered in the cash book. The slip would be something of this nature "Please advance me Rs. (amount) Initials of accused and date." Sometimes "to be accounted for later" would be added after the amount. These advances were to be for the Port Commissioners' purposes naturally; it is proved, and admitted that the accused had been in the habit of taking such advances for private purposes and that at the time of the institution of this case, a sum of over 6,000 had been so drawn by him. The charge has been proved and in accordance with the provisions of section 222 (2) Cr. P. O. for a gross sum of Rs. 1,200, as taken within the period of one year. The question for decision is whether the taking of such advances admittedly for private purposes was dishonest within the meaning of section 405 P. O., whether the accused was guilty only to a Civil action for recovery of the amount or is amenable to the Criminal law.

Before discussing the merits I would advert to an apparent objection to this Court, and to the High Court to commit the case to the latter court for trial. Before both courts allusion has been made to the "desire" of this court to try the case and before the High Court this alleged "desire" was said to be so evident that the accused apprehended he would not get a fair trial in this court. Section 447 Cr. P. O., which bears on the point, gives the one and the only reason for commitment viz. the opinion of the Magistrate that the offence cannot be adequately punished by him. Nowhere has such a plea been taken that the powers of punishment of this court are inadequate to deal with the offence if established. The application was therefore rejected as a matter of course. To argue that this rejection is equivalent to a "desire" to try the case absurd, to go further and wilfully misconstrue this phantom "desire" into an intention not to try the case fairly is to impute to this court motives that can but be of the most dishonourable nature. I have learned to be surprised at any allegations against the Bench made, or supported by a certain class of practitioners, but that an advocate of high standing in the Bar should lend this countenance to such an allegation as was made in this case, is to me a matter of profound surprise and regret.

An initial objection was taken at the opening of the cross-examination to the charge. The subject of the charge is a sum of Rs. 1,200 drawn on several separate vouchers the first dated 7-2-03, the last 5-1-04. It is contended that section 222 (2) Cr. P. O. does over-ride section 234 (1) Cr. P. O. which is to the effect that three offences only of the same kind may be charged within the year. The former section states very clearly that a charge specifying the gross sum misappropriated, within the year shall be deemed to be a charge of one offence. The section is new and there are no rulings on the point; but it seems to me that to limit it in the manner suggested would be greatly to cripple its object, and I think it extremely improbable that the framers of the section ever contemplated such limit being placed upon it. Accordingly disallowed the objection.

Whether my view be correct or not, it can safely be said that the accused has in no way been hampered in his defence by the amount in the charge being Rs. 1,200 instead of Rs. 870 as the sum of the three largest items. As to the facts it is urged that the taking was not dishonest, there was no attempt at concealment. It was the practice in the Port Commissioners' Office, as it is in all mercantile offices in Calcutta, to take advances from the office funds on notes of hand; no one except the prosecution in this case, could possibly suggest that the employee who took from the office cashier an advance of twelve annas for ghari hire and gave a chit for it, would be amenable to the criminal law. In cross-examination it has been elicited that only were petty sums of a few rupees taken by other employees, but at least an account of Rs. 1,500 by the Traffic manager and amounts aggregating Rs. 100 or Rs. 120 monthly by the Secretary. The accused had been in the habit of taking such advances and had repaid them. Three or four years ago, he repaid a sum of Rs. 900 and again in 1901 he paid all he owed, a sum amounting to Rs. 3,000, clearly shewing the honesty of his intentions.

As for the arguments, I must say that the attitude of the prosecution with regard to petty advances seems to me utterly untenable. It is not the custom in this country of silver currency to carry rupees in one's pocket and to argue that a man who takes petty advances from his firm on notes of hand, has committed a criminal offence. His I. O. U. is in that case as good as, if not better than a cheque on a credit balance at a bank. As for the large amount of Rs. 1,500 drawn by the late Traffic manager, the circumstances of the advance are in evidence; it is in evidence that his chit was countersigned by the Secretary which would tend

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to show special circumstances and an appeal to and approved by the Secretary. What the Secretary's salary is, is not in evidence, his assistant's (accused's) is Rs. 700, so probably Rs. 100 or 120, would represent three or four days pay of the Secretary. It is proved that he repaid his advances the next day on being reminded. On the other hand the total sum so taken by the accused is more than his salary for nine months. In discussing the advances drawn by different people, the relation of the amount drawn to the salary of the drawer is clearly a factor in determining the honesty of the transaction.

I have not the slightest doubt in this case that when the accused drew these advances he intended ultimately or at a future time as the illustration to explanation of section 403 P. O. runs to restore them to the Port Commissioners, but as that illustration shows, this does not, being outside the Criminal Law. To hold that an employee in a house of business may dip his hand, as deeply as he wishes, into the till, provided he leaves behind an I. O. U. and have an ultimate intention of repayment to hold that such an employee would be only civilly liable, would close all Banks and convert the heads of firms into their own cashiers! I must hold that the accused is guilty of criminal breach of trust.

As to punishment, it is in evidence that the accused has served the Port Commissioners for some eighteen years and with the exception of these advances which, on his own showing, he has been drawing undetected and unchecked for a number of years, has a blameless record, that in a couple of years or so he would have been entitled to a pension of some £250 per annum which he has now lost; that the advances were drawn by him, not for his own personal enjoyment but for purposes as set forth in his statement, that entitle him to sympathy. He is not a young man and his acts have brought on him severe punishment in the shape of loss of employment, prospective pension and character. I therefore deal with him leniently.

I sentence the accused to one month's "simple" imprisonment.

THE DARJEELING BRIBERY CASE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Darjeeling, July 5.
(Before F. Piffard, Esq. Deputy Magistrate, Darjeeling.)
Emperor vs. Chhabilal Brahmin, Constable.

Mr. M. N. Banerjee, Public Prosecutor, prosecuted and Mr. S. R. Das, Barrister-at-law, instructed by Babu Jadu Bhushan Sen, Pleader, defended.

The facts of this case which has assumed unforeseen importance and is exciting much public interest are shortly these. On the 24th January last two persons, named Panchaman and Asa Ray, were brought to the Darjeeling Thannah from a distant place, Pedong, and they were accompanied by their friends, Ramlal and Basantbir, with a view of being bailed out. From the Darjeeling Thannah they all were taken to the residence of the then Court Sub-Inspector Babu Adhar Nath Bose. It is said, there, the Court Sub-Inspector, in presence of the accused Chhabilal, demanded first Rs. 15 and afterwards Rs. 10 as the illegal consideration for getting the bail for Panchaman and Asa Ray. The money, however, was not produced. Panchaman and Asa Ray agreeing to give up to Rs. 5 only and ultimately they were not bailed out and were consigned to the jail hajat. On the 25th January Ramlal and Basantbir came to Mr. M. N. Banerjee and asked him to apply for bail of the persons in hajat. The application, however, could not be presented that day, and on the 26th January the petition for bail was put in before Mr. H. H. Heard, the Deputy Magistrate in charge. The bail petition stated amongst other things the competency of Ramlal and Basantbir to stand bail, they being Government Khas Mehal Ryots owning landed property etc. Mr. Heard granted the order of bail of Rs. 200. Mr. Banerjee, who had appeared for Ramlal and Basantbir, prayed that the petitioners may be accepted as sureties and mentioned that generally when an order for bail was granted, like the obtaining of a decree, a man's troubles began. Mr. Heard, however, sent on the petitioners to the Court Sub-Inspector to do the needful. This was in the forenoon. In the afternoon about 3 p.m. Ramlal and Basantbir came and reported to Mr. Banerjee, that after all they could not bail out the prisoners, as the Court Sub-Inspector wanted Rs. 10 and they could only give up to Rs. 5 and that afterwards the accused constable wanted Rs. 8 to make matters square with the Court Sub-Inspector, but they were not ready to give Rs. 8. Mr. Banerjee, then consulted Pleaders, Babas Bepin Behari Chatterjee and Charu Chandra Banerjee and took the men into Mr. Heard's court, and reported the matter to Mr. Heard, who in his turn asked Ramlal and Basantbir and they told him what had happened. Then Mr. Heard asked the men to produce Rs. 8 which they did and Mr. Heard then marked the Rupees with a small "H." and handed the same to the men, telling them to give the Rupees to whoever wanted. Mr. Heard after sometime told the Pleaders and others to be on the look out, and he told Mr. Banerjee to keep in the background and not to spoil the game. Mr. Banerjee and others, however, were not good detectives, and after making some crude attempts they awaited events. Subsequently it was ascertained that the constable had taken the rupees, in a place where he thought no one was looking on, and the fact was brought to the notice of Mr. Heard by Mr. Banerjee. Mr. Heard then was about to write a letter to the District Superintendent of Police when the constable Chhabilal was coming by the verandah and Mr. Banerjee brought to Mr. Heard's notice that the constable was going along and Mr. Heard then asked the constable to be called in. The constable gave his name as Chhabilal when he was asked by Mr. Heard, but was very fidgety and edged towards the door. Mr. Heard, however, commanded him to stand still, while he began to write, but at that movement the constable placed the 8 Rs. on the Pleader's table, some mention having been made that the constable had the rupees in his hands. Mr. Heard then saw the rupees and found that they were the identical rupees which he had marked himself, and asked the constable why he had taken the same, and the constable at first said, he had taken the rupees as the Court Sub-Inspector had wanted them. Then according to Mr. Heard, he was watching the face of the constable and said that some one from outside made a telegraphic sug-

gestion to the constable, who then tried to shuffle out of his statement about the Court Babu, but Mr. Banerjee pinned him to it. After this Mr. Heard sent his letter, the rupees, and the constable, by Inspector Hari Das Prodhan to the District Superintendent of Police. Subsequently the Court Babu and the constable were suspended, and prosecutions were instituted against them under section 161 I.P.O. etc. The cases were made over for trial in the first instance to the file of the Deputy Magistrate Babu Atal Bahari Maitra, but Babu Jadu Bhushan Sen, Pleader, on behalf of the constable objected to Atal Babu's trying the case, on the ground that he knew the facts of the case, the petition stating that all the Magistrates except the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Garrett, had heard something of the cases, and that therefore Mr. Garrett might take the cases on his own file. Atal Babu accordingly sent up the papers to the Deputy Commissioner stating that he had heard something about the cases, and he also desired the same may not be tried by him. The Deputy Commissioner then placed the cases on his own file but afterwards found he had no time to take up the cases, and he made them over to the file of Nabakumar Babu who had also, according to the petition, heard something of the case. Thereafter on the 8th March a petition was filed by Babu Jadu Bhushan Sen, Pleader, on behalf of the constable, for the examination, in-chief of the two witnesses for the prosecution, Ramlal and Basantbir, seeking to make them and Mr. Banerjee as co-accused. The petition was as follows:—

"The humble petition of Chhabilal, the accused in the above case:

"Most respectfully sheweth,

"1. That the statements made by the witnesses Ramlal Rai and Basantbir for the prosecution if they are to be believed at all should be taken for what they are worth against all the persons to whom they apply.

"2. That your Honor's petitioner submits that he is not guilty of any offence but what the allegations of the said two witnesses go to show that there was a conspiracy to induce your Honor's petitioner to accept bribe.

"3. That from the statements of the said two witnesses made before your Honor it will appear that they said they had no money and were unwilling to bribe your petitioner but that Babu Mohendra Nath Banerjee induced them to attempt to bribe your Honor's petitioner.

"4. That your Honor's petitioner submits that under the circumstances of the case it would not be fair to keep the persons engaged in the conspiracy out of the record in order to have their tainted evidence against your Honor's petitioner, who even according to the case for the prosecution may be described only a victim to the conspiracy.

"5. That it is not the intention of your Honor's petitioner to shut out evidence against himself for the statements of these persons engaged in the conspiracy may be considered under section 30 of the Indian Evidence Act.

"6. But that your Honor's petitioner prays that such statements tainted as they must needs be may be considered against all the persons to whom they may apply.

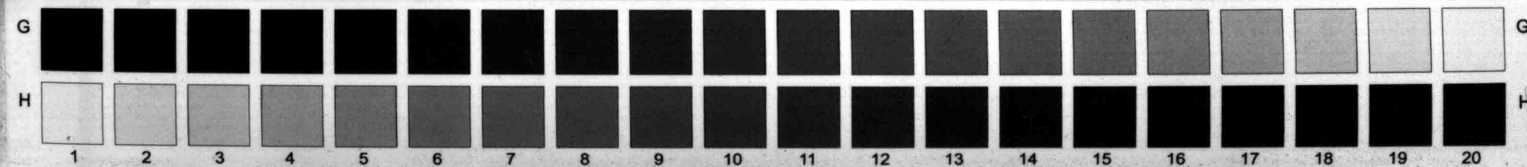
"7. That your Honor's petitioner, therefore, prays that Ramlal Rai, Basantbir and Babu Mohendra Nath Banerjee may be joined as co-accused and tried together under section 289 of the Cr. P. Code and your petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray.

(Sd.) Chhabilal."

This petition was being heard at some length but meantime the matter was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, who considered the petition a preposterous one, and therefore ordered proceedings to be stopped—and ultimately the case was transferred from the file of Nobi Kumar Babu to that of Mr. Perrott, the Sub-divisional Officer of Kuraong. Against his order of transfer, the accused and the Constable and the Court Sub-Inspector moved the High Court with the result the cases were sent back to the file of Naba Kumar Babu, who, however, would not try the cases on the ground that he had heard a great deal about the cases, and ultimately the cases were made over to the file of Mr. Piffard.

This morning when Mr. Banerjee appeared as Government pleader to prosecute Mr. S. R. Das argued in support of a petition filed by the constable, that Mr. Banerjee should not be allowed to prosecute because (1) he was a witness, (2) serious allegations were made against him, and (3) the petition of the 8th March 1904 was not disposed of. In reply Mr. Banerjee stated that no doubt he was a witness, but he would examine himself first, and that he did not know of any law by which he was prevented from prosecuting, cited two precedents and said that if the other side could point out to any law on the subject incapacitating him from prosecuting, he would certainly not prosecute, and further stated that if the facts transpired against him he could be always tried separately, and that the petition of the defence was an attempt to shut out important evidence, the object being transparent. Mr. Piffard ruled that Mr. Banerjee could prosecute as Government Pleader and that his evidence may be taken first; he further rejected the petition of the 8th March.

After this Mr. Banerjee opened the case for the prosecution stating most of the facts set forth above and gave evidence. Thereafter one Mr. Pal, clerk of Mr. Mukerjee, bar-at-law, was examined and then Mr. Heard who all bore out the facts as far as they remembered. It had been arranged that Mr. Banerjee would not remain in court while Mr. Heard (who had come from Kissingunge, where he is a Sub-divisional Officer, only for giving evidence) was cross-examined and when Mr. Heard offered to be cross-examined, Mr. S. R. Das stated that he would like to examine Mr. Heard next day as he understood Mr. Heard would stay over next day, on the ground that he (Mr. Das) would like that the two complainant witnesses Ramlal and Basantbir, at least might be examined, as though there was no question about the marking of the rupees and the same being produced, he would like to know what they would state as to what else took place before Mr. Heard. It was then arranged that those witnesses would be examined, and Mr. Heard was told to come at about 4.30 p.m. The two witnesses were examined, (Mr. Das had left before their examination) and when Mr. Heard came to be cross-examined Babu Indu Bhushan Sen would not cross-examine and said he stood on his rights; and that Mr. Heard may stay over and be examined next day after 3 Pleader witnesses. The case was then adjourned to tomorrow, the 6th instant.



THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JULY 10, 1904.

INDIA AND THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

THE Filipinos, it is true, will not get back their full independence immediately, but they are going to have something better. The American Government has undertaken to protect them without taking a piece out of their country! Such generosity is truly unexampled in the annals of the world. Nor does the generosity of the Americans end here. They have arranged to grant the full measure of self-government to the Filipinos. Besides, a code of laws has been framed for them which not only guarantees them an impartial administration of justice but makes it impossible for wrong-headed Judges to abuse their powers as they do here. In a series of letters our London correspondent has described the nature of the boons which are proposed to be conferred on the Filipinos by their late conquerors. They were to doubt be read with intense interest by the Indians; for they point out vividly the difference of the treatment accorded to them and the Filipinos, by their respective rulers. But let our correspondent speak:—

FILIPINO HOME RULE.

WHERE "LIBERALITY UNEXAMPLED" IS TO BE FOUND.

"The place in question is not India. British India, on the contrary, so far as the treatment of the Indian people in relation to administrative and executive office is concerned, is the most shocking example of 'liberality' which the world has ever known. No, the country in which 'unexampled liberality' is being shown is not under British dominion. The credit is true, attaches to the Anglo-Saxon race, but not to the British portion of that race. Upon the brow of the Republican administration of the United States is to be placed the laurel wreath of merit for conspicuously righteous and just treatment of conquered people. I am about to make extended references to the Philippine Islands and to the American administration thereof.

"Before everything else, let me draw attention to the interesting and important fact that the seven millions of inhabitants of the Philippine Islands are not contemptuously denominated 'natives' by their rulers, as is the case with the two hundred and thirty million of the inhabitants of India. On the contrary they are respectfully and ethnologically denominated Filipinos. I very much doubt, if they had been called 'natives,' whether such a boon as 'practical independence' would so soon have been granted to them. Though many educated Indian gentlemen cannot, or will not, see it, the fact that they are, and their forefathers were, so ready to accept the contemptuous term 'native' as a sufficient description of themselves, and even to use the term of each other, is not the least of the reasons why they are held in a discreditable subjection. 'Natives' will stand anything, as, indeed, why should they not? At the best, they are ethnographically and geographically nobodies. Unhappy India! that her 'natives' are content to be 'natives,' and have no ambition to be Indians! She, too, might have done greatly, had her sons possessed the courage to discard the term 'natives.'

"In my previous narrative, sent to you some weeks ago, and printed in the 'Patrika' of April 20, I gave a general idea of what President Roosevelt, the Hon. W. H. Taft, and the Hon. Elihu Root, were desirous of doing for the Filipino people in the way of self-government. I am now able to supplement the brief particulars of that communication with full details. A copy of the Act to provide for the administration of the affairs of civil government in the Philippine Islands has reached me from Washington. It should make every patriotic Indian who reads what I extract from that enactment half-die of envy at the admirable treatment that their fellow-Asiatics are receiving, combined with the keenest regret that their own over-rulers are not actuated by the liberal spirit of the United States. As preliminary to the establishment of a free and representative constitution, the Act proceeds to lay down in plain and emphatic provisions, to which, to my knowledge, no parallel exists in India, the rights and privileges of all Filipinos. The wise Americans have greatly outdone us, Britishers, in this respect. The Filipinos are not to be content with a Proclamation from a beloved Monarch which is full of benevolent sentiments and just suggestions; their position is made clear in precise words which have the force of enacted law—words which cannot afterwards be explained as merely sentimental expressions, as is being done to-day by gentlemen (who consider themselves the essence of honour) in respect to the Victoria Proclamation of 1858.

"No; the Filipino rights are firmly based on legal enactment and cannot be minimised or assailed save by the Congress of the United States in session assembled. These rights are set forth in language of the most pellucid character; they render it impossible for any Filipino to be arbitrarily arrested and unjustly treated as were the Nahuatl Brothers in India a few years ago. Nor do they allow any person, for the same offence, to be 'twice put in jeopardy of punishment.' Nor, again, can any person, save on a capital offence, be held in gaol before conviction, if he can find reasonable bail. The writ of habeas corpus is to run in the Islands save in times of rebellion, while excessive fines and cruel and unusual punishments are not to be inflicted, are, indeed, strictly forbidden. Under this law, Magistrate Clements could not have existed. And, note this especially:

"No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the Government for redress of grievances. Anything so grossly unfair as some of the provisions of the Official Secrets Act will be impossible in Manila so long as the prohibition just quoted exists. But I need not refer to the nineteen declarations of this new Bill of Rights by any further description. The readers of the 'Patrika' are entitled to see them in all their force and majesty. These they are:

"Sec. 5. That no law shall be enacted in the said Islands which shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, or deny to any person therein the equal protection of the laws.

"That in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to be heard by himself

and counsel, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to have a speedy and public trial, to meet the witnesses face to face, and to have compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his behalf.

"That no person shall be held to answer for a criminal offence without due process of law; and no person for the same offence shall be twice put in jeopardy of punishment, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself.

"That all persons shall before conviction be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offences.

"That no law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be enacted.

"That no person shall be imprisoned for debt. That the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion, insurrection, or invasion the public safety may require it, in either of which events the same may be suspended by the President, or by the governor, with the approval of the Philippine Commission, wherever during such period the necessity for such suspension shall exist.

"That no ex post facto law or bill of attainder shall be enacted.

"That no law granting a title of nobility shall be enacted, and no person holding any office of profit, or trust in said islands, shall, without the consent of the Congress of the United States, accept any present, emolument, office, or title of any kind whatever, from any king, queen, prince, or foreign State.

"That excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

"That the right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated.

"That neither slavery, nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist in said islands.

"That no law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the Government for redress of grievances.

"That no law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and that the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed.

"That no money shall be paid out of the treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation by law.

"That the rule of taxation in the said islands shall be uniform.

"That no private or local Bill which may be enacted into law shall embrace more than one subject, and that subject shall be expressed in the title of the Bill.

"That no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the person or things to be seized.

"That all money collected on any tax, levied or assessed for a special purpose, shall be treated as a special fund in the treasury and paid out for such purpose only.

"Section 6 provides a census which, in the words of the Act, 'shall take and make so far as practicable full report of all the inhabitants, of name, age, sex, or tribe, whether native or foreign-born, literacy in Spanish, native dialect or language, or in English school attendance, ownership of house, industrial and social statistics, and such other information as the President and the Commission may deem necessary.'

"Then follows Section 7 which provides for the establishment of machinery whereby practical self-government is to be given to the Filipinos. Two years after the completion and publication of the Census, the Philippine Commission which now rules the islands is, on the instructions of the President of the United States to call a general election for 'the choice of delegates to a popular assembly of the people of the Philippine Islands, which shall be known as the Philippine Assembly.' When the Assembly has been convened and organised, 'all legislative power' heretofore conferred on the Philippine Commission shall be vested in—

A Legislature consisting of Two Houses—

—the Philippine Commission and the Philippine Assembly."

In his next letter our London correspondent proposes to describe the constitution of the Philippine Assembly which, it will be seen, is the real and genuine thing, and not a farce like our Legislative Councils. There is some ray of hope for the Indians in this unparalleled benefaction of the Americans. For when the latter allow two Houses of Parliament to the Filipinos who are far less enlightened than the people of India, England will be obliged to treat the latter more liberally than she is doing now, specially as they are more loyal than the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands to their respective rulers.

One fact must strike every body. It is only half-a-dozen years ago that the Filipinos have been conquered by the Americans and they are not yet quite reconciled to a foreign yoke. Yet they are going to be as free as the Canadians or the Australians. But the Indians, though they are about two hundred years under British rule and have sacrificed themselves on many an occasion for the benefit of England, are not growing but declining and are losing one by one all the petty privileges that they enjoyed before.

INDIA AND THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

II.

THE PHILIPPINE ASSEMBLY.

In the following communication, our London correspondent gives a description of the Philippine Assembly. For the present the Assembly will be divided into two Houses. One elective and the other nominative. The Assembly is to consist of not less than fifty nor more than one hundred Members, and these are to be apportioned among the Provinces as nearly as practicable according to population. The number of Members is not large, neither is the population: seventy representatives for seven millions of people gives each representative seventy thousand men, women, and children at his back—a position which any man may be proud to occupy.

Let our correspondent now speak:—

"A new Assembly is to be elected every two years—a most wise and sensible arrangement.

Another provision transfers to the Philippines a practice of the United States elections, differing from the English practice. I confess I do not feel satisfied with regard to it. In the United Kingdom any British subject can be selected by any constituency; he need not be a

resident in and an elector of the election district which he contests. The United States' course is the opposite of that just stated; it is to be the rule in the Philippines. I think it is a mistake, in that it limits alike the choice of electors and the opportunities for capable legislators. However, it is said to work fairly well in the States. My own opinion is that the British plan works better. No Filipino can be elected until he is twenty-five years of age. Here, again, I consider the age of legal manhood—twenty-one—to be preferable. Some of the best work of which a man is capable may be undertaken by him before he is twenty-five, and very good work, too, it might be. There will be no chance of a Filipino William Pitt becoming Prime Minister in his twenty-second year as was the case with the English William Pitt.

"The length of the session is limited; why, is not clearly apparent, except that the American House of Representatives has its definite days of opening and of ending;—in this respect, as in so many others, it is unlike the House of Commons. Ninety days constitute the Philippine period, not including Sundays and holidays, so that a session would cover four months, as nearly as may be—quite long enough, perhaps, as a beginning. The restriction is modified by the power given to the civil Governor to convene a special session for legislation or for action on such specific subjects as he may designate. 'No special session shall continue longer than thirty days, exclusive of Sundays.'

"Wisely, as I cannot help thinking, the Members of the Assembly are to be paid for their services. Being paid, every Member, like every Minister in the English Parliament, can be called upon to devote his whole time and energies to the service to which he has been elected. What the salaries of the Speaker and other officers, as well as of the Members, shall be, is not here fixed. The provision with regard to the salary of the Assembly as soon as it shall be fixed, the Assembly is to be the judge of its own returns, and the qualifications of its Members—not an irresponsible body like the Juntas in India which are called Legislative Councils of the Viceroy and of the Governors of Madras and Bombay. Among other powers conferred is that of compelling the attendance of absent Members. It may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly behaviour, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a Member. These are things the Assembly 'may' do; there are other things it 'shall' do. In the latter category come the keeping of a journal of its proceedings, which shall be published, and the yeas and nays of the Members on a question shall, on demand of one-fifth of those present, be entered in the journal. There seems to be a curious limitation of division-record, —curious to one accustomed to House of Commons practice.

In the British Parliament every division is recorded; every yeas and nay find place in the journal of its proceedings.

"This, in effect, is the Reform Act of the Philippines, and before I leave it to draw attention to other features of this remarkable measure, I wish to direct the notice of Indian readers to an interesting feature of the first meeting of the Philippine legislature. Its earliest duty, after being duly convened, is, 'each House voting separately,' to choose two Resident Commissioners for the United States. These Commissioners occupy the position which the Council of the Secretary of State for India occupies in England, but are to be elected by the Filipino people, and both may be Filipinos. Before Lord Curzon again talks of 'unexampled liberality' shown by the British authorities to the Indian people, let him contrast these two elected Filipino Resident Commissioners with the close Corporation which will not even find a place for an Indian veteran of wide knowledge, large-mindedness and executive ability, as Dadabhai Naoroji.

Each of these Commissioners is to be paid £1,000 per annum as salary and £200 for expenses; he shall hold office for two years and is, presumably, eligible for re-election. Eligibility for the office consists in citizenship and in being thirty years of age. The latter condition is, I think, a mistake.

"For the present, at least, one House of the Legislature is to be nominative, the other elective. So far as the Act indicates, it is not very clear on the point,—the Upper House is to consist of the Philippine Commission as at present constituted. It is nominated by the President of the United States and, evidently, is responsible for administrative action, and possesses this special power of the purse:

"If at the termination of any session the appropriations necessary for the support of the government shall not have been made, the amount equal to the sums appropriated in the last appropriation bills for such purposes shall be deemed to be appropriated; and until the legislature shall act in such behalf the treasurer may, with the advice of the governor, make the payments necessary for the purposes aforesaid."

"How, it may be asked, is no Commission constituted? I wish Lord Curzon were in India when this Letter will appear in print there, and that his attention could expressly be drawn to the fact I am about to mention. First, however, let me remind the readers of the 'Patrika' that, notwithstanding what Lord Curzon truly calls a 'liberality unexampled in the world,' from 1700-1904 not a single Indian has sat in the Viceroy's Council, or in the Council of any Governor or Lieutenant-Governor. (What is the case in the Philippines? The best answer I can give to this question is to publish the names of the Commissioners appended to the latest Report from the Commission in my possession. This is the composition of the Commission which is, according to Lord Curzon, LESS liberal than the autocratic rule of India:

AMERICANS.

Wm. H. Taft, Chairman,

Dean C. Worcester,

Henry C. Ide,

Luke E. Wright,

Bernard Moses,

FILIPINOS.

T. H. Pado de Tavera,

B. Legaria,

Jose R. Luzuriaga.

"Apparently, these proportions are to be maintained until, in the effluxion of time, the Upper House also becomes elective. But, what a satire the composition of this Commission is upon the Act of Parliament of 1833, upon the Queen's Proclamation of 1858, upon the promises of Lord Lytton at Delhi, on Jan. 1877; and upon the strange untruth to which

Lord Curzon—undesignedly, of course, and unthinkingly, as is so characteristic of him—gave publicity in his latest Budget speech! Never, in two hundred years, a single Indian fit to be associated with the Raleighs, the Laws, the Elliots, the Arundels, of the Viceroyal Council, while, in the backward Philippines, for a longer period under the domination of Spain, almost before the armed Revolution is at an end, the United States can find as many capable men as they require to be associated with their own chosen representatives! The condemnation of British selfishness and exclusiveness is complete."

We need add very little of our own remarks to those of our London correspondent, who is a distinguished Englishman himself. Surely, the English rulers of India cannot be proud of the fact that, while the Filipinos should have an elective Legislature of their own, consisting of one hundred members,—all natives of the country,—the Indians, who are more capable, and certainly more loyal than they, are to remain in the same state as before,—no, not even in the same state as before,—but are rather to go down in a worse condition. The local self-government that Lord Ripon conferred on the people of this country was a very small measure. Yet, there is no doubt, its seed was sown with a sincere desire that it should germinate and grow into a vigorous plant under the fostering care of the British Government.

But the seed was not allowed to germinate. The District Boards and the Municipalities have now practically been converted into Government institutions. And as regards the expanded Councils, almost the entire thing is in the hands of the Government. Nor is this all. There is the standing official majority in the Councils, which means that the popular element is practically nowhere there. Fancy the way the recent measures were passed by the Supreme Government in the teeth of the opposition from the representative members. In short, our Legislatures are only a mockery of the real thing; while the privilege of governing themselves almost as free people is going to be conferred on the Filipinos.

BUREAUCRACY AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

The deportation of William Duane as well as of Silk Buckingham; the suspension of the 'Friend of India' for one year; the Press Act of Lord Lytton; the press prosecutions by Lord Lansdowne, as also his proscription of a petty Chanderanagore vernacular paper with a circulation of one hundred and fifty copies from British territory; and the Official Secrets Act of Lord Curzon all tend to show that the principle, under which India is ruled, is the same now as it was in 1795. They further show that the same causes produce the same results, and that despotic rule and freedom of speech can never act in concert.

At Calcutta William Duane started a newspaper called the 'Indian World,' which soon became a power. His criticisms on public men and measures were fearless and independent, and as a natural consequence, he became unpopular with the ruling caste. The liberty of the press was not quite in favour with the members of the administration, and every Englishman will blush to hear of the infamous measures adopted to relieve the country of the presence of the journalist, who was infinitely more high-minded than his persecutors. His paper, however, did not pay him and in September 1794, Duane made up his mind to sell off the 'Indian World' and all his other properties and return to Philadelphia. The sale was to have taken place on the 1st January 1795, and his passage had even been engaged by the 'Hercules,' then lying at Calcutta.

Duane was at this time not in open enmity with the public officials, but no doubt they had a lurking hatred of him and were waiting for an opportunity to be revenged on him. On the morning of the 27th December, 1794, he was to have sold only three days before the sale of his properties, a note, dated the previous day, from Captain John Collins, the private Secretary of Sir John Shore, was put into his hands inviting him to the Governor-General's house at 8 o'clock next morning. Believing that this was an invitation for breakfast he proceeded at once to the Governor-General's. The first person he saw was Captain Collins, and the following conversation ensued:—

Captain Collins.—I am glad you are so punctual, Mr. Duane.

Mr. Duane.—I generally am, Sir. I hope the Governor-General is well.

Captain Collins.—He is not to be seen and

Mr. Duane.—I understand I was invited by him.

Captain Collins.—Yes, Sir; but I am directed by the Governor-General to inform you, that you are to consider yourself as a State prisoner.

Saying this he stamped on the floor, and thirty Sepahis, who stood concealed behind the folding doors of an anti-chamber, rushed out, and presented their bayonets at Duane's breast. The doors being left open by them, discovered Sir John Shore and two others of the Supreme Council sitting on a sofa.

Mr. Duane.—I did not think Sir John Shore or you, Sir (turning to Captain Collins) could be so base and treacherous as to proceed or even to think as you do.

Captain Collins.—Silence, Sir, (to the Sepahis) 'Jay jao Sepahis.' Drag him along, Sepahis.

Mr. Duane.—(to the Sepahis) 'Asti baba ham jagya.' Softly, my friends, I shall go along with you. (to Collins) What is to follow next Collins, the bowstring or scimitar?

Captain Collins.—You are insolent, Sir, (to the Sepahis) 'Jay jao, soor moosani.' Drag him along, you pig-eating scoundrels.

Mr. Duane.—You are performing the part of Grand Vizier now, my little gentleman, and these are your mutes. Calcutta is become Constantinople, and the Governor-General the Grand Turk.

The rest is soon told. Duane was conveyed to Fort William in a palanquin and placed in charge of three sentinels, one of whom was always by his side, day and night, with a drawn bayonet! On the third day after his arrest he was taken on board an armed Indian man-of-war commanded by Sir Charles Mitchell, and conveyed to England where he was set free 'without a single word of information or explanation.' He lost all his property worth about a lakh and half of Rupees, the East India Company having no doubt misappropriated it.

(Then came the turn of Silk Buckingham. His paper was called the 'Calcutta Journal.' It was during the temporary rule of John Adam that the Buckingham incident occurred. He was, like William Duane, attacking the administration to the delight of the non-officials and disgust of the officials. The lift that John Adam had got by a mere accident, the resignation of the Marquis of Hastings, had turned his head and the sarcastic writings of Buckingham were like poison to him. The acting Governor-General appointed a fellow Scotsman, who was a Presbyterian chaplain, as superintendent of Government Stationary without prejudice to his other duties. This led Buckingham to write a leading article on the subject which appeared in the 'Journal' of the 8th February 1823. This article made Calcutta laugh, and the laugh was of course against Governor Adam. This was too much for the endurance of the latter and he proposed the expulsion of the offender from the country 'to put an end to his mischievous character.' The subservient council agreed to this, and the council order was issued. Buckingham was told that if after the 15th of February he was found in India, he would be forcibly deported from the country. So you see Adam was more generous than Shore.

Buckingham appealed against his banishment to the Court of Directors, the House of Commons, and the Privy Council, and claimed compensation for the ruin of his paper. After a struggle of nine years he got it in the shape of a pension of £200 per annum.

Just see how Indian revenues were treated then. Adam had a private grudge against Buckingham and abused his power to expel him. Thereupon India was fined £200 per annum to find the compensation! If India was treated in that fashion then; it is treated in the same way even now, indeed India has even been treated in that way.

The Hon'ble East India Company had the China trade. The British merchants raised a clamour, and the Company had to give up the monopoly, and in return they demanded compensation. Who was to pay this? It was settled that India must pay, and thus India had to pay 12 crores in the shape of compensation to the Company for the benefit of British merchants. Is this not funny?

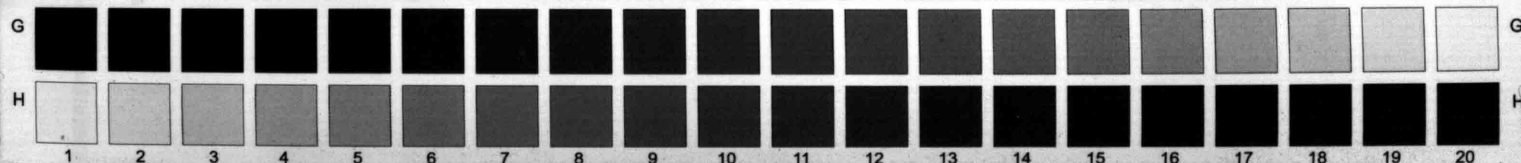
But to continue. No further attempt was made by English journalists to start an independent paper in India. But the 'Friend of India' came to grief for his over-haste. The back-bone of the Sepoy insurrection had been broken, but yet the insurgents were fighting here and there. The time had not yet come to raise the shout of triumph and abuse the natives. But George Smith was impatient, and so he wrote his infamous article headed 'The Censorship of Plassey.' It was once reproduced in our columns as a curiosity. This article was but the last of the series that was permitted to appear. The Editor was writing inflammatory and abusive articles, and the Government, disapproving of such proceedings, had warned him. The repeated warnings had no effect upon him, and thus Lord Canning was compelled to suspend the paper for one year.

The other similar movements of the Government were directed against papers conducted by Indians. The first Indian paper sought to be prosecuted was this journal. The 'Patrika' had adopted a violent tone in defending Mulhar Rao, but the history of our dispute with the 'Hindu Patriot' is very well-known and it is not necessary to recount it here. Two of our articles were placed before the Advocate-General for his opinion, but the latter discouraged a prosecution. He was not sure that 'a Jury would convict.'

Sir Ashley Eden took a great deal of interest in this matter, for he had imbibed a violent antipathy towards this journal. Foiled in this attempt Sir Ashley Eden conceived the idea of introducing the Vernacular Press Act, for in those days, the 'Patrika' had its vernacular columns also.

The speech of Mr. A. Chowdry, as President of the Burdwan Conference, will, we fear, be read with mixed feelings by many. This, because, he has departed from the beaten track, and sought to follow a somewhat new path. There is no doubt, however, that many of his sentiments are not only perfectly sound, but expressed with a terseness and vigour which is very rarely seen in the addresses of most of our distinguished public speakers. Every one will agree with him that we have too much played the part of the mendicant in our political agitation, and that we must now change the method. Indeed, there is not much difference between the position of beggars who abound in the sacred shrines of India, and that of political agitators in this country. In the beginning the Government paid some heed to our political grievances, but now they totally disregard them. What is the good then in carrying on these political movements? That is the view of Mr. Chowdry. Here we must differ a little from the position taken up by our friend. If the Government assumes such an attitude of indifference, it is because it has a notion that we have no heart in our work. Constituted as the English Government is, it is impossible for the rulers not to respect an agitation when it is conducted with sincerity and earnestness. As a matter of fact, the Government has never ventured to ignore agitations when they have been carried on in a sustained and systematic manner backed by the voice of the whole nation.

In the opinion of Mr. Chowdry the salvation of India lies in the industrial development of the country. That is true to a great extent; but where is the capital to come from to compete with cheap foreign-made articles? We have enough of sugar-canes and date trees amongst us. Labour is also very cheap here. Yet our sugar industry has been destroyed by German enterprise. Mr. Chowdry talks of training annually at last two of our young men Europe or America in industrial arts. This is feasible; but, how to utilize their services? There are at least a dozen such trained men remaining idle in this country. Here is one of his suggestions which is very sound. It is that, as poor people, we must remain content with our homely home-made things and give up all foreign articles. That is indeed a way by which we can remove our poverty. Mr. Chowdry has omitted to mention another



non-political method of our salvation. It is to abandon litigation, which was unknown in India before the advent of the English, but is now eating into the vitals of the country.

It is litigation which not only reminds, but makes the people realize, that they are a conquered and subject race. For, when at home, they are as free as Englishmen, but the paraphernalia of the courts of justice bring the fact home to their minds that they are helpless foreigners in their own mother land. Besides, it sows seeds of dissensions amongst the best of friends which germinate into big plants of perpetual hostilities, and continue to grow in intensity and bitterness from generation to generation. So if India is to be saved, the canker of litigation should be removed as far as that is possible. Of course it is impossible to return to the old Panchayet system, but, much may be done in this direction if the matter is seriously taken up in hand by our leaders. Nobody can compel us to go to courts of law if we do not seek them. It is thus quite within our powers to keep us off from the evils of litigation.

Mr. SPOONER proposes the establishment of District Associations. Twenty-five years ago, when he was yet in his teens, there was scarcely a district town which had not its public associations. These associations did immense good in their own way. But, the method in which the Congress was conducted, put an end to these local associations. Their revival is urgently needed. Let the principal two works of these Associations be the development of industrial resources of the country and the establishment of arbitration courts. If our people can be made to give up litigation and foreign articles, they may secure their practical regeneration without politics which is as necessary for the salvation of India as the other two means noted above. Of course Mr. Choudhry says that, as a subject race, we have no politics. But, reading between the lines, one can easily see the spirit which prompts him to utter this paradox. Our friend, Dr. S. B. Mitra, whose powerful criticism of Mr. Choudhry's speech, was published yesterday, finds fault with the latter for discouraging politics. It is quite evident, however, that in his heart of hearts Mr. Choudhry is as ardent an advocate of politics as Dr. Mitra himself is. If he has yet advised our people to eschew politics, it is from a sense of utter despair, and not because he has no faith in genuine political agitation.

It is during the rule of Lord Curzon that the policy of putting "domestic Europeans," "Poor Whites," and "Eurasians," against the natives of the soil, has got a more definite shape. Let us see how this policy got gradually developed under successive rulers. In the beginning, the English rulers of the land were quite helpless in the hands of the natives of the soil. The real administrators of the country were native, the troops who fought for the British Government were mainly native. The native administrators were got rid of gradually, yet the Sepoys remained. But the revolt taught the rulers the necessity of depending more upon British than native troops. An attempt was made to supplant the Sepoys by Eurasian regiments during the days of the Mutiny, but the experiment failed. It was in short, found impossible to get rid of the native Sepoy. But arrangements were made for the purpose of making them powerless for mischief. And for this purpose one British soldier was set to watch and control two Indian Sepoys. But the administration of the country is yet partially in the hands of the natives of the soil. The Subordinate Executive and Judicial Services are yet in their hands. The Subordinate Police is also almost native, Europeans, imported from abroad would not remove the difficulty for they would charge high pay, which the Government can not afford to spare. And hence their eyes were turned towards what is called "domestic Europeans and Eurasians." If these could be so trained as to be able to replace the natives of the soil the Government would be altogether independent of the latter. Besides, the Babus have not proved as submissive as the Government wished them to be. To encourage them by giving the posts is repugnant to the policy of which we are discussing. The Eurasians and domestic Europeans are therefore trained for the purpose of replacing the "natives." They have been given educational facilities at the cost of the Indians which the latter do not enjoy. But yet would they be able to compete the Babus in examination? The "St. James Gazette" quoted the other day by us, said frankly enough that, if competitive examination was made the means of filling the public service the Babus would snatch every one of the posts from Englishmen. If Englishmen have no chance the Eurasians have a lesser chance. Experience shows that the Eurasians and domestic Europeans would be nowhere in a competitive examination with the Babus. And hence Lord Curzon is of opinion that competitive examination is not good for India.

Mr. WILLIAM DIGBY, C. I. E. than whom India has not a more sincere or well-informed friend in the world, delivered a speech at the Annual Dinner of the London Indian Society in which he urged the people of India to take note of what the United States has been doing to rule the Philippine Islands, and called upon the English rulers to accord the same treatment to the Luanas that the Filipinos are receiving at the hands of the Americans. He observed that some Indian papers are already doing their best to bring the fact of this revolution to the notice of their readers. Yes, it is since the year 1900 that we have been trying on this subject before the public, off and on. The question stands thus. Why should not England behave towards the Indians in the same way as the Americans are doing in regard to the Filipinos? We think, however, the Indians have greater claims to political concessions than the Filipinos have. Mr. Digby is of opinion that we should now concentrate our efforts in one direction, and demand of England the same rights what the Americans are contemplating to confer on the people of the Philippine Islands. For information on this all-important subject we beg to refer our readers to the leading article of yesterday, and also to other articles which will

appear in these columns in due course. We hope those who have the welfare of the country at heart will peruse these articles with close attention, and prepare themselves for a big movement in this connection. If the Indians really combine and demand to be treated as the Filipinos are proposed to be by their masters, England will be effectually cornered. Of course selfish men who have not a drop of generosity in them and have lost the power of distinguishing right from wrong will oppose, but we may expect sympathy from the vast myriads of unprejudiced Englishmen. What we have to do is to put the matter energetically before the tribunal of the British public.

Our London Correspondent says that Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee has been compelled to withdraw his parliamentary candidature owing to "an insidious disease which has laid hold of his giant frame." Our attention has however been drawn to the fact that in the letters received from him by the last mail by Mr. Bonnerjee's constituted Attorney and Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose there is no mention of this decision on his part. We have got no private advice about the matter either from Mr. Bonnerjee or from our London Correspondent. All that we can say is that our correspondent, who is a personal friend of Mr. Bonnerjee and takes a good deal of interest in his candidature, is not likely to be misinformed on the point. It need hardly be stated that the news of Mr. Bonnerjee's retirement will be received with universal regret in this country; for, if there is one Indian in England capable of representing our cause in Parliament, barring of course Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, it is he. Let us however trust that for once our London Correspondent has been mistaken in his fact, and that the next mail will bring the cheering information that Mr. Bonnerjee is hale and hearty, and has no intention of giving up his constituency.

At a recent meeting of the Calcutta Corporation Mr. Apar put the following important question, namely, "What has been the annual increase in expenditure in the last five years severally." It elicited the startling reply that, since 1899-1900, not a year has passed, with the exception of 1900-1901, without its vast increase in expenditure, and that the total increase during the five years has been the huge sum of Rs. 13,79,445! This question has led to a still more important one and it was asked at the last meeting of the Corporation by Maharaj-Kumar Prodyat Kumar Tagore. It runs to the following effect:—

"Will the Chairman be pleased to lay on the table a return containing a statement of all appointments carrying salaries of Rs. 200 and upwards per month held by Europeans, Indians and Eurasians from 1893 to 1903 with the full names of the officers and the designation of their respective offices?"

Now the importance of this question cannot be overstated; for, the general impression is that one of the main causes of the increase in the expenditure is the employment of a vast number of employees, and the increase in the pay of the higher officer. It is stated that in this way several lakhs of rupees have been added to the cost of the administration within the last few years. The reply to the question of the Maharaj-Kumar which the Chairman will furnish at the next meeting of the Corporation, will show how far this impression is correct. Mr. Apar and the Maharaj-Kumar have laid the public under great obligation by their important interpellations.

SINCE it has been recommended in the last Bengal Sanitary Commissioner's Report, and the recommendation is supported by the Lieutenant-Governor, that mosquitoes should be exterminated, the public ought to come forward with suggestions as to how to accomplish this purpose. The Health Officer of the Bombay Municipality made the following proposal:—

"No doubt, opinions may differ as to mosquito being the only transmitter of malaria, but the fact nevertheless remains that this is the line upon which scientific research is now being prosecuted in various parts of the world by men of note, who are convinced of the correctness of the theory. It is probably impossible to exterminate the 'anopheles' in Bombay, but something may be done to reduce malaria by filling in or draining the pools of water where they breed, or treating the water with crude petroleum or kerosine or coal tars. Drainage or dryness of the soil is the great preventive of breeding."

The Calcutta Health Department had also its method of destroying the mosquitoes. It was to appoint a number of men to catch mosquitoes, an operation in which Mahomed Bux, if we remember the name correctly, showed his skill in a wonderful manner. Indeed, as a mosquito-hunter, he had probably no equal. If we are not mistaken, his method was to pursue a mosquito, with a broom in hand, if he heard one singing. It must be borne in mind that, it is the female mosquito which sings, and it is also the female mosquito which bites. That being the case, the great object is to kill the females. Another great discovery was also made by the Health Department of Calcutta, namely, that it is also the female mosquito which lays eggs and not the male one. It is now clear why Mahomed Bux followed the singing mosquito and not the silent ones. The method suggested by Lord Lytton, the novelist, may also be tried. It is not only to catch a mosquito but thrust a pungent powder into its mouth. The novelist guarantees that if this were done, the mosquito was sure to die. The great point is to destroy the eggs, for there is no doubt that the young ones come out of them. All scientists agree in this important fact. When the eggs have been collected, they may be easily burnt to ashes. Of course it is very difficult to collect the eggs, for they must be very small. To remove the difficulty the egg-gatherers may be furnished with powerful microscopes to detect them. Another practical way is to clip the wings of the mosquitoes with a nice pair of scissors by holding them between the fingers. Here is yet another method. It is to tie some heavy substance to the tails of the mosquitoes and make it impossible for them to fly. But have they tails long enough for the purpose?

When an Indian accused is convicted, the usual rule is to award him a severe punishment, and the trying Magistrate justifies his severity by observing that crime requires to

be stamped out with a strong hand. If the accused happens to be of high position, he is still more severely punished on the ground that, considering his education and so forth, he had no excuse for his crime. On the other hand, if a European accused is convicted, the usual rule is to award a lenient sentence and the Magistrate justifies his leniency by a quite different chain of arguments. If the accused is of high position the leniency is justified—but let us see how the trying Magistrate justifies the nominal punishment awarded to Nicoll. He was an Assistant Secretary to the Port Commissioners and was charged by them with criminal breach of trust, in respect of Rs. 1,200. The Chief Presidency Magistrate, who tried the case convicted the accused of the offence, and sentenced him to one month's simple imprisonment. He says in his judgment:—

"As to punishment, it is in evidence that the accused has served the Port Commissioners for some 15 years, and with the exception of these advances, which on his own showing he has been drawing undetected and unchecked for a number of years, has a blameless record, that, in a couple of years or so, he would have been entitled to a pension of some £250 per annum, which he has now lost. That these advances were drawn by him not for his own personal enjoyment, but for purposes, as set forth in his statement, that entitled him, to sympathy. He is not a young man and his acts have brought him a severe punishment in the shape of loss of employment, prospective punishment and character."

"I therefore deal with him leniently. I sentence accused to one month's simple imprisonment."

It is some consolation to find that the Magistrate was aware of what he was doing. But what of the punishment utilized in the case of an Indian in a similar position, that higher the position, the lighter the punishment?

We believe there is scarcely an Englishman now who does not condemn this Tibet expedition. If the Tibetans had been able to present a bold front, or even if they were better armed, Englishmen would have not felt so keenly the outrage that is now being committed in the land of the Lamas. Invaded by strangers, armed with Maxim's, four hundred of the Tibetans stand to oppose the force with matchlocks and leather cannons. Within half an hour these four hundred men are blown away. And British soldiers do not feel proud of the achievement. It is like the work of seal-hunters. The seals on land are powerless, and are mercilessly clubbed. The seal-hunter is obliged to be satisfied with his work as each seal killed is some money. If, in the same manner, this war had yielded gold, it is quite possible a few Englishmen could have found some solace in it. But no, Tibet has not yet yielded gold, nor is there any prospect of its ever yielding any. Naturally, therefore, this Tibet Expedition does not only mean pure slaughter but useless slaughter to Englishmen generally. The stern fact, that though we are in Tibet we do not know what we shall do next, is only intensifying the regret. From this Expedition we, Indians, however can deduce some consolation. We regret that we have not a vestige of self-government. But are Englishmen better off? It was one man who conceived this idea of invading Tibet, who Russia was engaged with Japan. And this one man carried his point. Did he consult his countrymen? No! He did not consult either the English public or the British Cabinet, or the British Parliament. The Expedition was organized and the English people are now regretting the folly of this movement. But they are all free, they govern themselves. Why do they stop it? That they cannot. So it is that Englishmen govern themselves. They are almost as despotically ruled as the Indians are. Surely, this is some consolation to the latter.

Scraps.

WITH reference to our Silchar correspondent's letter published in our issue of the 5th instant saying that Mr. Burt, the Assistant Superintendent of Police of Silchar, who cut such a sorry figure in the Kallacherra dacoity case has been transferred to Upper Assam, we extract the following paragraph from the Resolution of the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner on the Administration of Police in the Province of Assam for the year 1903:—

"The chief events in the criminal history of the year was the Kallacherra dacoity case, in which it was proved that a number of Afghans actually planned in their own country a descent upon a trader's house in the Cachar district. They succeeded in carrying away over Rs. 9,000 worth of property after wounding several of the inmates of the house. This was the more unfortunate, as the local police had news of the proposed dacoity beforehand, but failed to reach the spot in time to cope with the robbers. Had it not been for the personal exertions of Mr. Davis, the Inspector-General of Police, who happened to be in Silchar at the time, it is more than possible that the dacoits would have escaped; as it was, 24 out of 27 were arrested, all of whom were convicted. The Administration is very greatly indebted to Mr. Davis for his successful intervention in this important case."

Reading between the lines of only finds in the above a severe condemnation of the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Burt, who held the office of the District Superintendent. But what has been his punishment for the incompetence displayed by him? Our correspondent says he has been posted to a district where he will draw the "Assam allowance" which was not granted to him in Silchar. Comments are superfluous. We will revert to the subject again after the disposal of the appeal of the Kabulis in the High Court.

We are informed by our reporter that the appeal is fixed for hearing on the 19th instant. The brief being a very heavy one has by a special order of the Criminal Bench been printed and the paper book occupies 272 pages of foolscap, the judgment alone taking up 17 pages. In order to enable our readers to follow the proceedings in the High Court, we intend publishing shortly the prosecution story which almost reads like a romance.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[From our own Correspondent.]

London, June 17.

THE "MATERIAL PROGRESS" OF INDIA IN THE ENGLISH PAPERS.

That sadly misnamed Blue Book, the "Statement Exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress of India," has received rather more attention than is usual from English newspapers this year. But even the increased interest is comparatively slight, and little more than a bare, often misleading, summary of its figures is laid before British readers. The "Daily News," however, shows praiseworthy discrimination in its treatment of the official "Statement," and it illuminates a few of the delusive figures with apposite quotations from Mr. J. E. O'Connor's terrible exposure of the poverty of India, recently made at a meeting of the Indian Section of the Society of Arts. "It is not a difficult thing," shrewdly writes the "Daily News," "to create a surplus of prosperous appearance by keeping taxation at an undue level." On the subject of the economic drain, it has a few wise words. "The main feature of the commerce of India," it says, "is the great excess of exports, which amounts to about £18,000,000 per annum. The usual attempts to disguise the true economic significance of this drain upon India's resources are made in the financial statement. It is amusing to read that the official figures 'entirely dispose of the erroneous assumption that India is paying far more than she receives under the three heads of imported goods, imported investment securities, and payment abroad of budgeted Government sterling charges.' The Liberal organ goes on to remark that this delightful way of putting 'Home Charges' entirely begs the question, for it does not in any way meet the point, as to whether India ought to be mulcted by England every year for home charges to the extent of £18,000,000. 'So far as they consist of interest upon borrowed capital, there is no dispute, but,' adds the 'Daily News,' 'no dispute, but,' adds the 'Daily News,' 'no self-governing Colony would admit the equity of many of the remaining charges, and any attempt on our part to make such levies upon Canada or Australia would promptly bring about a dissolution of partnership. That is the true test of the nature of the part of the military effective charges, the whole of the non-effective charges, and, of course, the cost of the India Office in Whitehall.' As a top-stone to the argument, the 'Daily News' draws attention to the fact that every pound unjustly drawn from India represents half—[it would have been nearer the mark to have said almost the whole]—of the average annual income of one of our Indian fellow-subjects, whereas to an Englishman it is but the average income of one week."

This, of course, is very old and obvious in India, but English people have not many opportunities of hearing the plain truth with regard to the inner meaning of the annual "Tribute." The "Daily Express" also deals with the Blue Book, and shows, in so doing, a curious mixture of sense and nonsense. The absence of crime among Indians is pointed out. But this is hardly evidence of moral progress since that aspect of morality in India has long evoked the praise of unprejudiced observers. The usual parade is made of large totals in commerce and industry, and the like, without comment on the enormous populations with which they should be compared. That the death-rate is double the average in England and Wales is mentioned clearly, but the "Express" dismisses the salt tax in a few airy words. Taking the average consumption of salt per head at ten pounds, it states that the duty works out at three pence a year, and concludes: "the pressure of that sum can scarcely be deemed severe." Perhaps the writer of that complacent sentence would begin to discern dimly what the actual poverty of India is when he is told that three pence make a distinct hole in the family exchequer and that this, to him, paltry sum is quite sufficient to prevent the ordinary peasant from obtaining enough salt to preserve his health. The "Financial Times," in surveying the Blue Book, notes that "there can be no doubt, taken as a whole, irrigation in India pays, and pays well. In the course of an otherwise pro-Government article, that journal slyly remarks: 'It may be said incidentally that Indian official literature rivals in voluminousness and minuteness of detail that of the Argentine Republic! Happy India! But how will Lord Curzon appreciate the comparison of his administration with that of a mere South American Republic?'

I add here, just as I find it, a letter on this subject which appears in to-day's "Daily News":

THE INJUSTICE TO INDIA.

(To the Editor of "The Daily News.") S.R.—In your article published to-day under the heading "Indigent India" you speak of the "Home Charges" as a drain on the resources of India, the equity of which no self-governing colony would admit. Later on in the same article, in discussing the questions of military expenditure and agriculture in India, you quote from Mr. J. E. O'Connor's recent paper read before the Society of Arts in support of your views.

Since you recognise Mr. O'Connor as an authority on such matters—and I would remark that he is universally regarded as one of the greatest living authorities on all matters pertaining to the finances and economic condition of India—his views on these "Home Charges" may be of interest to your readers. In his recent paper Mr. O'Connor said that to call them a "drain on the resources of the country" was extravagant nonsense. He pointed out that of the £18,000,000 spent annually in this country by the Government of India, a proportion was paid for value received in materials for public works, and for the maintenance of the civil and military administration, while of the remainder a part was applied to payment to officers on leave or retired. For these there was no direct equivalent in materials supplied, but he said, "It should be recognised that the equivalent has been or is being given in services rendered, services which have made and make it possible for India to carry on the industrial

pursuits of life in peace and security, and to make the progress which I have outlined in my paper."—Yours, etc.

A. HART-EDWARDS.

June 14, 1904.

It is perfectly true that Mr. O'Connor used the words "extravagant nonsense." It is also true that Mr. O'Connor concluded his reference to the Home Charges by remarking:

"At the same time, the greatest care should be exercised to restrict the growth of these charges for the same reason that it is better to raise an internal loan than to resort to the foreign money-lender. The unremitting attention of the Government should be given to this point to prevent the undue increase of what, after all, is certainly a burden in the expenditure abroad of taxes raised in India."

Thus, after denouncing our own phrase, "the drain upon India," as "extravagant nonsense," Mr. O'Connor was himself constrained to use the word "burden."

Now to pass from the appeal to authority to the merits of the case. Can Mr. Hart-Edwards deny that to charge upon the revenues of poverty-stricken India the cost of the India Office in Whitehall is an injustice which would not be tolerated by any of our self-governing Colonies? Would Canada consent to contribute to Mr. Lytton's salary?—Ed. N.]

A NON-OFFICIAL ENGLISHMAN ON THE COVENANTED OFFICIALS.

A brightly-written book on some of the multitudinous phases in which India can be discussed has been sent for review. It is entitled "Facts and Phantasies of a Folio Grub," by Herbert Compton (Anthony Treherne and Co., publishers). Mr. Compton, a real book lover, nursed his love in the library of the late Captain Eastwick, C.B., most energetic of East India Company Directors. Consequently, every page of this work has a subtle flavour of bookish distinction about it, even when the author treats of the most unlikely subjects for literary adornment, as, for example, "On Starting a Bobbery Pack." Mr. Compton seems to have had a long spell of experience in India as a tea planter in various parts of the eastern side from Kumaon to Assam. During this period, he learned two things—among many others; one was to love the best Indians he met and to cordially detest and scorn the Covenanted Civilian. The latter he looked upon as incarnations of concealed lack of ability. However, he shall use his own language about the "Heaven-born." I will give two quotations: one on an Indian, the other on "the great man of the earth;" for these, probably, are the chief things in this book for Anglo-Indians most likely to interest the readers of the "Patrika."

A Tribute to a Good Indian.

"Sirdar Mahomed Hyat Khan, C.S.I., who recently retired from the service of Government, is spending the hot weather in our Himalayan valley. I am informed that this old and loyal servant of the Empire is thinking of finding occupation for his declining years—may Allah make them many!—in writing his autobiography. Nicholson died in his arms, and that alone would justify the book. But there are a thousand other incidents to do so too. A life so full of adventure—a hundred times it has been exposed to fire on the battle field—would, under any circumstances, be profitable to record, but in the Sirdar's case it would be more than merely personally interesting. There are several blanks in Nicholson's life, recently published, which the Sirdar can fill in from his own knowledge and tales of the N. W. Frontier, and Kabul (some of which I have been privileged to listen to), which will, I feel sure, thrill as well as instruct."

"Alas, when this passage was so lightly penned, little did I think that my old friend would have gone to his grave without completing that which I know was his very ardent ambition! In the same year that the above lines were written the Government of India rewarded him (rather tardily) by making him a Nawab—a distinction he had deserved many years before. It was always an ambition of mine to shape Hyat Khan's biography for the press. I hope he has left materials behind for one, and if he has, I know they will be dutifully treated by another friend to whom he had, in a measure, engaged himself for the work. Were such a life's record to be lost, I have no hesitation in saying Indian biographical literature would suffer. There never lived a man who was a more thorough, dearer gentleman by the light of nature than Nawab Mahomed Hyat Khan. Green grow the grass for ever over his grave, and the blessing of the Prophet follow him to the Dark Beyond!"

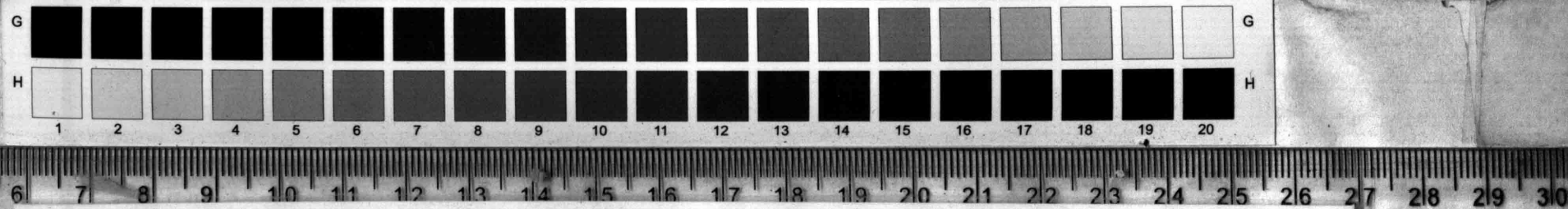
Competition-Wallahs by a Jungle Wallah.

"A gentleman wrote a letter in the finest mixture of Browningese and Meredithese, which landed him at a high level of obscurity, to enquire if non-official Anglo-Indians were of the same refined metal as Official ones. To whom I did myself the honour to reply with my usual prolixity, and what I said was:

That assuming for the sake of argument the preposterous absurdity of an Indian Covenanted Civilian [the Indian Press always prints that in capitals throughout; a mere initial capital (as in God) not being reckoned sufficiently respectful] taking the Planter's or the Platelayer's place for a period, on the same principle that celebrated ministers of religion have accepted the editorship of a newspaper for a week, I agreed that he would be very much enlightened and might be improved by the process.

The Indian Civilian is the Salt of Asia. He is the product of a Colville Gardens' Crammer, and Government by Privilege. They make C.I.E.S out of the Indian Civilian. (Of course, you can be quite respectable and a C.I.E. But the really distinguished man is a good deal more distinguished without it.) And the Indian Civilian would die rather than omit the sacred formula I.C.S., from his name on his visiting cards. But this weakness is discarded vest of Suez, where the fetish does not act, and the Civilian sometimes sinks down into being quite a decent fellow, riding on the tops of omnibuses, going to the upper boxes in the theatres, and doing all those sorts of trifles which in India would defile his imperial caste.

The Service—which I need hardly explain can only refer to the Indian Covenanted Service, the I.C.S. Wallahs—is supposed to be recruited from gentlemen; but a competi-



...tive examination can no more make a candidate a gentleman than a commercial education can, per se, create an honest merchant. A still sounder axiom is that a competitive examination does not ensure a competent man. There are bad Officials and bad Non-officials. I have known Officials who touted for *nuzzers* (the which is a euphemism for bribes), who looked on the wine when it was red, who beat their wives. I have known Officials who exercised their judicial powers to pay off personal scores. But this sort of cattle I put aside as being the scum of their calling—and there is scum even amongst royalty. Such men as I have generalised are not fit to black the shoes of any honest Jack. On the other hand, I have known Non-officials who derived satisfaction from clouting their sisters, half-killing their 'niggers', and looking forward to their annual go of D.T. at Christmas. Nothing could make such men as these equal to the conscientious, if concealed, Official placed in authority over them.

Leaving out individualism, I am inclined to think that for all-round usefulness the average Non-official classes in India are decidedly superior to the average Official ones. They have more go and independence in them, less side and sham and subterfuge. Which may seem anomalous, but there is no doubt of it. Grovelling some Indian Covenanted Civilian will not fathom to get a decoration or a coveted appointment. The Non-official fights his own hand, and the fight is always an uphill one, and nearly always against the Government. He is absolutely unrepresented in India, where the chief publicity the newspapers (with any circulation) afford of unofficial news is confined to the report of a volunteer dinner, or some kindred negusy subject. Official misdeeds in up-country districts—or, as they would say (in England), in the Provinces—are never recorded in the Indian Press, and hence the dishonest, lazy, or incompetent Official, and all three exist, is never exposed. The result is that the Official class is assessed beyond its merits in India, because its demerits are so carefully hidden and buried. That splendid Service! I have heard men exclaim, enthusiastically referring to the Indian Civil. That splendid Sham! has sometimes risen to my lips in retort.

The Service is, in short, too select. Its haughty exclusiveness is what the Non-official resents, and here that non-descript animal, the 'Military Civilian'—an officer who prefers the leaves and fishes of civil employ to the skillful of Regimental Service—carries pomposity to explosion pitch. The Indian official lacks the suavity of the M.P., and the respectful courtesy of the proletariat engendered by a representative form of Government. Government by Privilege, which is the sole form of administration in our Indian Empire, is found to demoralise the best and most conscientious official. He is of the select, and this conduces to an assumption of superiority out of sheer vanity and force of habit; and possession being nine points of the law, custom, indifference, and not unfrequently contempt, have allowed him to keep what is not really his. Under these false conditions he poses, and has been permitted to pose, as a better man than the Non-official. Moreover, circumstances are all on his side: the stars fight for him in their courses. He is at the right end of the stick. The opportunities for distinction are all his. How shall this brilliant not shine over his humble Non-official brothers? He who is immortalised in Blue Books, constantly commended in Government Reports, and permanently engaged in interchanging scratching of backs? What chance has one Non-official in a thousand—nay, in ten thousand—to gain such glorification? What opportunities has the Non-official in our Indian Empire to show off his merits? The whole of India is in the hands of the Civil Service, and the one aim of that Service is to remain Select. It enjoys a monopoly of running the show, and it takes good care that the Non-official shall have no share in its monopoly.

But, give the Non-official a chance. Let the two parties in the argument change places for a season. Put the Collector or Deputy Commissioner to tea planting, and the District Judge to laying down railway sleepers. Then you shall see some fun. One might spare pity for the D.C. with his directors, and the D. J. out in the baking sunshine. Their incompetence would unfold itself like a negative in red light. On the other hand, under Planter or Platelayer, you would see the administration of the district more honest, and more lively than ever it had been before, and the venial native sub-officials working for once on the square. And what tone of iniquitous litigation would be knocked on the head and go by the board! When both parties eventually resumed their substantive appointments you would find the tea plantation ruined and the railway not laid down. But the District would be 'sitting up', and the law courts a sort of Salvation refuge for vakils and that sort of vermin. The D. C. and the D. J. would be infinitely more useful men, but, alas! I am afraid the Planter and the Platelayer would have had their heads turned, and have deteriorated. The Selectness of the situation would have proved too much for them.

A few years later, when both parties have returned to England, you shall arrive at a correct estimate of their respective merits. I can comprehend the Non-official despising the Official, who has sunk into the original nothingness which was his before a Crammer filled his head with stilted and superfluous notions; and imagine, too, the strenuous Non-official thriving, while the select ex-Official is merely a 'gent' with a pension from India, and a Nobody.

Let it not be forgotten that the above was written by an Englishman of Englishmen, and not by a jealous Indian of his alien rulers. That fact gives special force to every sneer, a sharp point to every gibe.

Two pupils of Davar's Commercial Educational Institution who went to England from Bombay in February last with their principal, have come out successfully with honours in the examinations held there by the 'Union of Lancashire and Cheshire. Institutes' with the following results:—Mr. R. N. Mehta: In Commercial Arithmetic, Book-keeping and Business Routine. Mr. A. Narayana: In Business Routine and Book-keeping.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Bank of Bengal.—The Directors of the Bank of Bengal at their last meeting made no change in the rate of interest or discount. Comptroller of the Viceregal Household.—It is rumoured that Major R. Strachey will possibly not return to his post of Comptroller of the Viceregal Household, but will succeed the late Mr. G. Garth as Manager of the Dacca State.

Indian Museum.—44,830 persons visited the Indian Museum during the month of June, the total being made up of 877 Europeans, and of 43,953 Natives of India. The daily average during the 21 days on which the Institution was open to the general public was 2,134.

Vacancy in the Supreme Council.—H. E. the Viceroy has been pleased to accept the resignation, tendered by Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyaya of his seat on the Supreme Legislative Council, and the Government of India have already requested the Government of Bengal to elect a successor.

A New Railway.—Says a Bhagalpur correspondent.—The alignment of the branch line of the E.I.R. from Bhagalpur to Barari Ghat has been completed, and the coming cold season should see the completion of the line which will connect the E.I.R. with the Katihar section of the B.N.W. Railway.

The Universities Act.—The Universities Act was passed at the end of last Calcutta season, but the provisions of the law have not yet been put in force, and so far no steps have been taken for the reconstitution of the senates and the syndicates. The Government of India, however, have not been idle in the matter, as correspondence is already passing between the Supreme Government and the Local Governments regarding the future of the over-grown universities. But no decision is probable till the beginning of the next cold weather, and no orders are likely to be issued until the return of Lord Curzon to India.

Lord Curzon's Administration.—The Departmental History of Lord Curzon's Administration is now being prepared in the Secretariat Office at Simla. Mr. L. P. Tucker, C. S., is writing the Foreign Office portion. Mr. Brunyate, C.S., the Financial and Commercial portions, Mr. Marris the Home Department portion, Major Colomb the Military portion, Mr. A. R. Tucker the Revenue and Agriculture portions, Mr. Groeven, C.S., the Legislative portion, and the Public Works portion is being written by one of the officers of the Department. This book promises to be an interesting compilation, but it is unfortunately not meant for the public.

Commercial and Industrial Department.—In consequence of the creation of the Commercial and Industry Department, we learn that there will be a thorough and complete redistribution of work in the Government of India offices. The exact nature of the redistribution is not yet known, but when the new Department is organized, detailed changes will be carried out, and it will do away with many existing anomalies, such as the placing of the control of the Postal Department under the Finance, the Telegraph under the Public Works, Mines and Archaeology under the Revenue, Explosives under Home, and Industries under the control of Home and Revenue, besides many other departmental improvements.

Survey Operations in Bengal.—During the past year many measures of economy have been introduced into the survey operations in Bengal. The experiment was made of introducing a system of contract payments in the Behar traverse section for all traverse work in the field, and for a considerable quantity of the computing work in the office. The economy of the management of surveys is shown by the fact that in Backergunge the cost per square mile of the traverse survey amounted to Rs. 43.6 as against Rs. 61.9 in the previous year, and the cost of the cadastral survey, with preliminary records, was Rs. 167.7 compared with Rs. 273.3 in the year 1901-02. At Ranchi the traverse survey was carried out at a cost of only Rs. 28.9 per square mile compared with Rs. 60.5 in the previous year.

Viceregal Council.—A number of vacancies will occur in the Supreme Legislative Council before the beginning of the Calcutta session. Already the seats of the official Additional Members from Bengal, Bombay, and Madras are vacant, and that of the United Provinces will be vacant in the beginning of the cold weather, as the Hon'ble Mr. Cruickshank will then complete his two years tenure on the Council. Among the Indian Additional Members H. H. the Aga Khan and H. H. the Raja of Sirmoor will be due to vacate their seats, and Rai Bahadur Sri Ram will also complete his full term on the Council. There will be also another vacancy as the Hon'ble Colonel Montgomery will resign his seat at the end of the Simla season, besides the three vacancies already caused by the resignations of Messrs. Hamilton, Theodore Morrison, and Dr. Bhandarkar.

Calcutta in Flood.—On Wednesday and Thursday, the 'city of palaces' wore the appearance of a floating city. Early on Wednesday morning rain began to pour in torrents and so heavy was the downpour that within two hours the streets looked like so many streamlets. It rained continuously till 11-30 a.m. In the northern part of the town there was scarcely a street or lane which was not under water. Thanks to the management of the Municipality, the water in the streets—in places knee-deep and in others waist-deep—was not cleared till late at night, all the drains being choked up. The tram service was suspended for more than 8 hours and the inconvenience of the citizens, specially the clerks and other businessmen, can be imagined when it is considered that they had to wade through 2 miles of overflooded streets. In Vienna they have canoes and our Municipality would do well if they see their way to maintain several boats during the rainy season for the convenience of the rate-payers. Yesterday there was a repetition of the scene of the previous day. The rains began at 7 a.m. and lasted till 1 p.m. Till the time of our going to the press most of the streets remained under water. Reports reached us yesterday from several places in the northern town that no attempt was made on the part of the Municipal people to remove the water.

A Runner's Bravery.—Last Thursday night while the Runner with his assistant was coming along the Katwa road with the mail bag some five or six men, armed with weapons both defensive and offensive, attacked them near 'Deoan Dighi' with a view to loot the bag which contained some six hundred rupees. The Runner and his assistant fought bravely with the gang in the course of which the former was severely wounded in the abdomen. He instantly handed over the bag to his adjutant with advice to run fast away to the destination and began fighting single-handed. Now the gang having realized the game to be lost disappeared precipitately. The Runner with much difficulty reached the nearest Post Office and fainted away through loss of blood. He is still lying in a precarious condition in a hospital. The 'Burdwan Sanghani' asks rightly the authorities to reward this brave and dutiful Runner.

The Diamond Harbour Tragedy.—The case in which one Iswar Chander Sautra, his step brother and his cousin of Koriebara in Diamond Harbour were charged with being members of an unlawful assembly, rioting, and causing the death of one Narain Chander Jana by piercing him with a spear under circumstances already reported, was concluded on Friday before Mr. Harward, the Additional District and Sessions Judge, presiding over the Alipore Criminal Sessions. All the accused pleaded the right of self defence. The Jury however returned a unanimous verdict of 'guilty' against the first accused under Section 323 I. P. Code on a charge of simple hurt, against the second under Section 324 on a charge of causing hurt with a deadly weapon and the third under Section 325 on a charge of grievous hurt. The Judge sentenced the first prisoner to nine months' second to eighteen months' and the third to four years' rigorous imprisonment.

Alleged Wrongdoings of a Girl.—It will be remembered that the readers of the 'Patrika' that the Joy Bhan, complained against one of the town named Golap, who had detained his daughter for unlawful purposes. The court was pleased to order the police to enquire and report. On their submitting a report, the matter was again opened. Babu Gyan Chander Guha, Debendra Nath Das and Preeto Lal Dass appeared on behalf of the father of the girl. Joy Bhan urged that the woman had no right to detain the girl. Golap lived in a house where several women of the town lived and the atmosphere was very bad for the girl, and that she would train her as a prostitute. Babu Suresh Chander Mitter, who appeared for the woman, repudiated that his client had any intention of making her a prostitute. The girl was with her since the death of her mother. The court ordered the applicant to bring witnesses in support of his allegations.

Car Festival at Puri.—The recurrence of the great car festival at Puri is an anxious time for the authorities, especially the health authorities, of the town and district. Last year there was a heavy mortality from cholera, due chiefly to the scanty and polluted water supply, and if we may judge from what is said in the *Supplementary Commissioner's Report* just published, the outlook for the present season is equally serious. 'A vicious circle,' the Civil Surgeon writes 'has been formed by which Puri town infects the district and then the district re-infects the town. It is generally noticed that cholera commences up the pilgrim road or up the railway line, generally invades Puri town, takes hold amongst the pilgrims, and then it spreads all over the district.' During last year there were 6,428 deaths against the comparatively small total of 3,764 in 1902. It is impossible to ignore the seriousness of this increase, notwithstanding the optimism of the official tone in regard to the general question of water-supply.

Ravages by the Recent Flood.—The ravages done by the recent flood in the city, if not immense, were of great consequence. It caused a series of accidents in Calcutta and its suburbs. On Thursday during the heavy rains a large two storeyed house in Harrison Road collapsed. It caused quite a panic and consternation among the inmates of the house. Some fortunately escaped unhurt but others were more or less injured. Two of the inmates of the collapsed house were found buried under the 'debris.' Prompt assistance was rendered to them and they were extricated from their perilous position when it was ascertained that they had not received any injury beyond a smart shock. Babu Amarendra Nath Chatterjee, Vakil, living in Mudden Mohun Chatterjee's Street, wrote to the police to inform that his coach house had collapsed and two men were injured. In Ekbalpore several houses (kutchas and puccas) collapsed, but no lives were lost. A vacant 'pucca' house in St. James Square collapsed but none living close to it met with any accident. A 'Khola' hut in Kallitola also collapsed yesterday.

Totemism Among Khonds.—At the last monthly meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal Mr. J. E. Friend-Pereira, B.A., read a note on Totemism among the Khonds. The totemic steps of the Khonds are described in considerable detail. Marriage within the circle of those having the same totem is forbidden. Their exogamic laws are of the communal form, based on real or fictitious blood relationship, subject always to the wider totemic circle of prohibition. The priest at a marriage invokes all the dead ancestors by name, as far as known, collectively where forgotten, till he last appeals to the totems of the wife and husband to live at peace with each other. Totems are sometimes common objects such as a chameleon; and a Khond whose totem is the chameleon will turn back from any prey if he see 'this god,' whereas one whose totem is a torch, the object being common-place, seems to feel less reverence. Khonds are reticent, especially in the revealing of the nature of their totem, and it may happen that the officiating priest at a ceremony is forced by ignorance to stop short at the place where the totem should be named for the head of the family to mumble out the required word. This reticence makes the search for cases of intercalation of new totems difficult. But we can believe that occasions do give rise to new totems; as when possibly the Chhota Puja commune burst in on their neighbours with fire and sword and took their totem, the torch, from the way they burned their opponents' villages.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, July 6. The Russian Volunteer steamers, Petersburg and Sevastopol have passed the Bosphorus outward bound, but their destination is unknown. The Sevastopol was flying the Red Cross flag but a telegram from Sevastopol states that both steamers are laden with coal in bags suitable for transshipment at sea.

General Sakharoff, who watched the Motienling fight from a tower, praises the valor of the troops. He reports that the Russians on the 3rd instant drove the Japanese to within four miles of Senyucheng. The enemy is fortifying Taling Pass.

London, July 7. General Kuroki reports that the Russian attack at Motienling on the 4th instant led to a desperate bayonet fight. The Japanese casualties were 57, and the Russians left 93 killed and wounded. The losses in the pursuit were greater.

Marquis Oyama and General Kodama have sailed to take up their appointments of Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief of Manchuria and Chief of the Staff respectively.

A Daily Telegraph despatch from Liaoyang says a battle is proceeding 25 miles from there, and numbers of wounded are coming in.

Reuter wires from Tientsin says that the destroyer Burnhoff on 30th ultimo safely re-entered Port Arthur, and that two Japanese destroyers were sunk in attempting to enter the harbour on Sunday night.

The Russian Volunteer steamer Smoleask has passed the Bosphorus.

The Japanese Cruiser Kaimon struck a mine and sank at Taliennan on the 5th instant.

Admiral Skrydloff reports that the Vladivostok Squadron on the 3rd encountered seven large Japanese warships in Broughton Bay and turned back, the Japanese pursuing and firing but without result.

Eleven torpedo boats attacked the Russians and two of them sank. The Japanese had disappeared in the morning. The Russians were not damaged and had no casualties.

Mr. Balfour, in the Commons, said that Britain was protecting the Behring Fisheries at the request of Russia and Japan, and no international questions could possibly arise. Britain would not exercise jurisdiction over Japanese vessels. Japan had promised to deal with any raid herself.

London, July 8. The full text of Admiral Skrydloff's despatch says that it is believed that two Japanese torpedo boats were sunk; also that it was on the 1st and not the 3rd instant that he encountered the Japanese fleet.

General Sakharoff reports that the Japanese advance guards have reached points 37 miles south-east of Mukden.

Reuter at Chifu says that Chinese refugees report that the Japanese on the 5th instant reached the north-east slope of Takushan Mountain, the summit of which is less than three miles from Port Arthur.

Russian Fort Number 16, on the main line of defence, was taken on the 6th instant.

Reuter at Wei-hai-Wei says that the fleet left there suddenly and it is understood has gone to Yungching Bay in consequence of orders from home to evacuate the Pechili Gulf.

The Russian Volunteer steamer Petersburg has entered the Suez Canal laden with coals for Vladivostok.

Reuter at Tientsin says that the Espiegle has left Nihway (Nuchwang) and is returning to Chinwangtao, the Russians objecting to her remaining.

NEWS LATER THAN THE MAIL.

THE WAR.

London, June 28. The Japanese newspapers are urging Admiral Kamimura to resign or commit suicide in consequence of his failure to intercept the Vladivostok Squadron.

General Oku says that he buried 1,516 Russians at Telesze. The natives say that the Russians buried, burned and carried away over a hundred others. The Russians say that they were practically finished before the battle. The troops, sodden by rain, had to cross a mile of open country under a devastating Japanese fire.

Fears are entertained in Russia of General Stackelburg's army. General Kuropatkin is condemned severely for sending Stackelburg south; this is compared to undermining the foundations of a house containing inmates in the third story. The Russians mistook Mr. Emerson, the Correspondent of the 'New York World' for a spy and shot him.

Baron Sayamatsu interviewed in London said that if France wished to mediate Japan's refusal to accept intervention would not be so absolute as Russia's. It was of vital interest to Japan to be safe guarded.

Corruption scandals continue to agitate Russian feeling. The Red Cross Societies' boxes of supplies have been filled with bricks and stones, and the latest pattern of artillery have been found to have been melted down and sold.

General Kuropatkin admits that 15 officers and 386 men were killed, 47 officers and 992 wounded, and 12 officers and 568 men left on the field at Telesze.

Russian newspaper correspondents admit that the Japanese are adept at turning a position concentrating on points where their presence is least anticipated.

The Russians accuse the Chinese of assisting the Japanese throughout the battle by means of mirrors on long poles.

Addressing Stackelburg's army Kuropatkin said: 'We must deal with the Japanese promptly otherwise we will not return to our homes.' He decorated 250 officers.

The Russians say that at Telesze three Japanese batteries could not be detected at all. The batteries communicated with one another by telephone and wireless telegraphy.

London, July 7.

A 'Daily Mail' telegram from Aden says that the Mullah's forces killed fifty Somali levies and friendlies at Eldad and looted their sheep and camels. The Pioneers pursued and shot twenty of them.

TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

London, July 7. Lord Bingham, Conservative, has been elected for Chertsey, having polled 5,425 votes against Mr. Sadler, Liberal, who polled 4,876. The main issue was Chinese labour. The exports and imports for June show the increase of nearly two millions each.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

A JAPANESE BOAT SUNK.

Bombay, July 8. Admiral Togo reports: Kaimon while on special mission on 5th July outside Taliennan, in thick fog, hit a Russian mine and sunk. Three officers, including Commander Takahashi and 19 non-commissioned officers and men are missing, but the rest have been saved.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENT.

Allahabad, July 8. The 'Pioneer's' London correspondent wires under date, the 7th instant: General Khilkoff states that General Kuropatkin is receiving a daily reinforcement of 4,500 men.

The Tibet Expedition.

THE JONG DISMANTLED.

Gyantse, July 7. It was discovered this morning that the monastery and practically all the town was deserted, except for a few old women and children. The Sappers were engaged all day in destroying the fortification of the jong. A visit to the jong shows it was even stronger than we suspected. A head cover was provided all up the main road which was further covered by sangars on right and left, and the placements in which the lead cannon stood were made chiefly of bales of wool. It was altogether perfectly marvellous that the position should have been taken with only 33 casualties. Quantities of gunpowder and Lhasa made cartridges were found in the various parts of the fort, showing that the explosion of the magazine did not exhaust the Tibetan magazine.

THE BRITISH CASUALTIES.

Simla, July 8. The following is a full list of the casualties at the assault on Gyantse Jong on the 6th instant:—British Officers.—Killed—Lieutenant G. P. Gurdon, 32nd Pioneers. Wounded—Lieutenant W. A. C. Bowden Smith, Royal Fusiliers; Lieutenant R. Nicolas and Lieutenant C. I. Hunt, 23rd Pioneers, Lieutenant-Colonel F. Campbell and Captain G. A. Preston, 40th Pathans, Captain I. H. Baldwin and Lieutenant G. A. Grant, 8th Gurkhas. All slightly except Lieutenant Bowden-Smith whose wound is severe; all doing well.

British troops—wounded—Royal Fusiliers 7010 Lance Corporal Harper, slight, 7156 Private Hamington, severe, 7391 Lance Corporal Prentice, slight.

British Troops.—Killed—8th Gurkhas—2057 Lance Naik Barma Bratake, 2857 Rifleman Tuti Thapa, 2766 Rifleman Babusare Gurung. Wounded, No. 7 Mountain Battery, 452 Driver Fizi Ali, severe; 30th Mountain Battery, 480 Gunner Wajan Singh, severe; 2nd Pioneers, 2984 Lance Naik Ram Singh, dangerously, (since dead); 3594 Sepoy Sunder Singh, slight; 40th Pathans, 2547 Sepoy Rat Mahomed, dangerous (since dead), 1367 Naik Khanavan, slight, 8th Gurkhas: Subadar Nawab Singh Rana, severe, 1750 Naik Rukoo Thapa, slight, 2578 Rifleman Lauke Bahadur Ali, dangerous, 2438 Rifleman Dhanraj Gurung, severe, 2518 Rifleman Bahadur Singh Ali, slight, 2798 Rifleman Bahadur Ali, slight, 2649 Rifleman Pasing Gurung, slight, 1584 Havildar Shamsur Gurung, slight, 2400 Rifleman Mani Ram Pusi, slight, 2082 Rifleman Birbul Gurung, slight, 2613 Rifleman Birta Singh Gurung, severe, 2742 Rifleman Kulman Gurung, slight, 1746 Havak Pangbir Rana, severe, 2533 Rifleman Mana Ganga, slight, 2249 Rifleman Rama Gurung, slight, 9th Gurkhas: 1519 Rifleman Samma Thapa, dangerous.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

Simla, July 8.

The following was received from General Macdonald, dated 7th instant:—

Reports were received that the enemy retreated during the night towards Shigatse Zankla and Karola. Mounted Infantry were sent out in all three directions on the Shigatse road. They overtook the rearguard of 400 Tibetans and followed them for two miles beyond Dongtse and inflicted some loss. The other two parties did not get in touch with the enemy, but learned they had retreated hastily towards the passes and the monastery, and the balance of the town was occupied this morning without resistance, and the demolition of the Jong begun. The enemy's loss was severe than anticipated. From further information obtained to-day from the prisoners and Lamas, the total numbers of the enemy opposed to us yesterday are estimated at 6,000. Mounted Infantry is moving to Dongtse to-morrow with a flying column, partly to disperse the enemy reported in the neighbourhood, but mainly to get fodder and supplies.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Gyantse, July 8. A reconnaissance in force is being made to Dongtse by ten companies of Infantry, eight guns and the Mounted Infantry in command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hogge of the 23rd Pioneers.

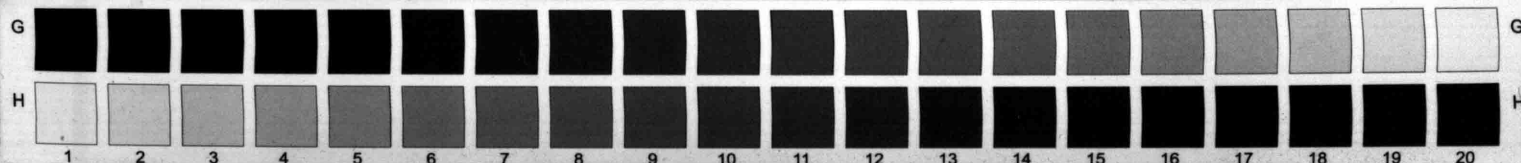
During the demolition operations of the Jong this afternoon an accident happened, six men of the Fusiliers being severely injured by an explosion, and two dangerously. The Tongsa-Penlop came in to-day and states he is sending messengers to the Ta Lama, informing him, on Colonel Younghusband's authority, that he is ready to receive the Delegates within a reasonable time.

The Mounted Infantry caught the retreating Tibetans on the Dongtse Road, inflicting some loss.—(I. D. News.)

THE ADEN HINTERLAND.

Reuter at Aden states that the tribes in the Hinterland are threatened and troops are being advanced.

The natives have killed four French officers on the Jibul Railway.



High Court.—July 8.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Pratt and Handley.)

APPEAL BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Douglas White, Deputy Legal Remembrancer, applied on behalf of the Local Government, for the admission of an appeal against an order of acquittal passed by the Sessions Judge of Mysnensingh.

On the 16th of March last one Magon Sheikh and others were placed on their trial before Mr. W. H. Lee, Sessions Judge of Mysnensingh, and a jury on charges of committing offences under Sections 147 and 366 I. P. Code. Some witnesses were examined that day and the court rose for the day. At the rising of the court the Foreman of the jury represented to the Sessions Judge that on the next day, that is the 17th March, there would be an eclipse of the sun which would last until 1-30 p. m. that as all the jurors as well as the pleaders for the prosecution and defence were all Hindus it would not be permissible for them to attend court even so early as 2 p. m. It was prayed that the Judge would be pleased to fix the hour for their attendance. The order made by the Sessions Judge was "come as soon as you can." On the next day at 2-30 p. m. the pleaders for the prosecution and the defence not having arrived at court the Sessions Judge without examining the witnesses present in Court or summing up the case, directed the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty for want of prosecution. The jury returned such a verdict accordingly and the Sessions Judge acquitted the prisoners.

It was contended by the learned Counsel that the direction of the Sessions Judge to the jury was not according to law.

Their Lordships admitted the appeal and sent for the records of the Sessions Court.

THE BALASORE SENSATION.

The rule obtained on behalf of Chowdhury Shyamanand Das Paharaj, a zamindar, who had been charged under Section 19 of the Arms Act by the District Magistrate of Balasore, came on for hearing to-day.

Mr. Jackson with Babu Prakash Chandra Mitra appeared for the petitioner and Mr. Douglas White, Deputy Legal Remembrancer, appeared for the Crown. Mr. Egerton also sent his Head-clerk specially for this case for the purpose of properly instructing the District Magistrate.

The guns which were the subject matter of the charge were produced before the court.

Mr. Douglas White said that in this case a rule was issued on two grounds (1) that the search was not conducted by an officer authorised by law, and (2) that those guns were exempted from the Arms Act as they were ornamental and possessed only antiquarian value. As regards the first ground learned Counsel submitted that no search was made under the Arms Act. Under Section 144 Cr. P. Code the petitioner was first directed not to hold his "hat." He disobeyed that order. He was thereupon summoned under Section 188 I. P. C.; but as he did not answer his property was attached. Thereafter a constable was deputed to search his property. While in the act of searching, the constable found those guns. He considered that an offence had been committed under the Arms Act. As there was no license under Section 550 Cr. P. C. the police officers have power to seize those guns. Therefore there was no search under the Arms Act and consequently the first ground failed. As regards the second point learned Counsel submitted that it was a question of fact. The petitioner would have to prove whether the guns possessed antiquarian value or not. The burden of proof lies upon him. On those grounds he asked that the rule be discharged.

Mr. Jackson said that that was the fifth thing arising out of the "hat" case. He wanted to speak on the second point first. The guns in question were broken to pieces and almost eaten away. The very appearance of the guns showed that they were used during the time of the Duke of Marlborough. Their Lordships would notice that the guns had been cleared by the police before they came here. (Learned Counsel here held a gun which was made of wood and said "should a man be presented for possessing this?")

Mr. Justice Pratt.—That is a toy gun.

Holding another gun learned Counsel submitted that it was of no earthly value.

Mr. Justice Pratt.—That is unconvincing certainly.

Learned Counsel here wanted to draw particular attention of the court of the way in which peoples were brought up. As regards the first point learned Counsel submitted that he relied upon Section 30 of the Arms Act. According to the Section the search ought to have been made by an Inspector, but here the search was made by a Head Constable. Section 550 Cr. P. Code had no application in this case. He then cited a Full Bench case of the Madras High Court I.L.R. 6 Madras P. 60 when their Lordships of the Madras High Court held that a gun without a trigger could not be considered to be an "arm" within the meaning of the Arms Act, or in other words no conviction under the Arms Act could stand for possessing an unserviceable gun. In conclusion he submitted that the rule ought to be made absolute.

Their Lordships intimated that they would examine the guns at the rising of the court and would judgment afterwards.

The other day, at the Bombay police Court, Inspector Walton charged Bulwant Powllapa with attempting to murder one Shir Manibhai. The case for the prosecution was that on the previous afternoon, the accused went to the bungalow of one Mr. Rogers at Colaba to see the complainant, who was there employed as an ayah. He took his meals with her in the cook-room, after which he asked her for his clothes. She said they were with the dholie. The accused then asked her for some money. She refused. Whereupon high words passed between them and the accused, picking up a table knife, struck her on her neck and other parts of the body, inflicting several wounds. He then ran away. He was arrested by a policeman doing duty near the railway station at Colaba. The woman was removed to the G. T. Hospital and has been detained for treatment. The case stands remanded.

THE PALGHAT FORGERY CASE.

The sensational Palghat Forgery Case, in which Mr. K. P. Raman Menon, High Court Vakil, and Mr. K. P. Krishna Menon, Barrister-at-law, were committed to the Sessions by the Head Assistant Magistrate, Palghat, came up for trial before Mr. L. G. Moore, I. C. S., on Thursday last. Rao Bahadur S. Ramakrishna Aiyar, Public Prosecutor, conducted the prosecution, while the first accused was represented by Mr. Eardley Norton and Mr. J. L. Rozario and the second by Mr. Narasiah, Barrister-at-law and the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nair. The court house was crowded. Mr. W. L. Wilson, of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., and Mr. G. Zachariah, Municipal Secretary, were empanelled as assessors.

The two accused entered the dock, but the Judge, who throughout the whole proceedings showed remarkable patience of his own motion allowed them seats by the side of their Counsel.

It may be useful to briefly state the history of the case, which developed of a feud which was accounted for several murders and a big riot in the near past. It may be said to have originated as early as 1890 when Government acquired a small spot of ground in the Attapadi valley for erecting a police station. The compensation awarded was 2as. 9 ps., but as the ownership of extensive forest land was involved in the transaction, the Mannarghat and Palat houses, which both claimed the property, came up to claim the compensation. A large number of documents were filed on both sides in the Palghat Sub-Court, and chief among those filed by the Palat party was the document which is the subject-matter of the present trial. This was proved to be forged, and the suit having been decided in favour of the Mannarghat Nayar, the Palghat Sub-Court granted sanction to the latter to prosecute the other party for forgery. The District Judge confirmed the sanction granted by the Sub-Court, and the High Court, before which it next went up, directed that the prosecution should be conducted by Government. Accordingly, the Sub-Judge of Palghat directed the prosecution before the Head Assistant Magistrate, who committed the case to the Sessions.

Mr. Norton urged at the outset that the trial by the Sessions Court was "ultra vires" inasmuch as the High Court was irregular in "directing" the Sub-Judge to order prosecution, and that either the Sub-Judge should have done it at his own discretion or the High Court should have done it before the Presidency Magistrate. The Judge promised to note the objection.

Thirteen witnesses were examined for the prosecution, including Messrs. A. Raman Nair and K. P. Achutha Menon, of the Palghat bar, the Valia and Elaya Nayars of Mannarghat, several clerks of public offices and some kariatthas and others. The general trend of the evidence went to show that it was not unlikely that the document was a forgery of an early date. Rangallyon, kariattha of the Kizhakepat house said that he had seen the document since 1888, in which year he got it from the jenni for the late Mr. Krishna Menon, and Kuryattil, Gopalan Nair swore that he saw his deceased uncle (the jenni) hand over some documents to Rangallyon. The defendants did not put forward their witnesses.

The Public Prosecutor commenced his address and concluded it. Mr. Norton then spoke for about three hours. As regards the document, which bore the endorsement dated 19th April, 1893, and signed by Kannappa Menon as Tashildar of Walluvanad at that time, it was not proved that Kannappa Menon was at a Tashildar on that date. He pleaded that even if his clients, who were highly educated gentlemen, were thought capable of forging a document, they should be credited with ability to do more cleverly. The document in question was of little use, and, if they wanted, they could have ascertained the name of the Tashildar. Mr. Norton indulged, as usual, in much fun and hair-splitting remarking of a certain witness that the larger the turban the less the brain beneath it, and making capital of a certain land settlement record in which "it is manifest," had been corrected into "it is believed."

After Mr. Narasiah had spoken briefly on behalf of his client, the second accused, the assessors gave the opinion that they considered the accused morally implicated, but there was not sufficient evidence for conviction. The Judge calling for a more definite verdict, they returned "not guilty," whereupon the accused acquitted.

WILD BEASTS NEAR COIMBATORE.

A Coimbatore correspondent writes to a Madras contemporary:—The frequent inroads of wild animals in the scattered garden-houses near the road leading from Coimbatore to Mettappolli is a source of anxiety to the troubled minds of the poor farmers. These poor but hardly men, what with the anxiety of maintaining a large family, have to battle against the disturbance caused by these unwelcome friends—the wolves and the bears. Quite recently, a man while walking along one of the mountain streams—which are usually dry, and which swarm along the country in these parts—saw at animal to the light of a common Indian dog coming towards him; and as soon as the animal perceived the man, it turned tail and ran away. Seeing this, the man threw a stone on the running animal, which instantly turned round and ran against him, and was just within some yards of him, when there came from a foot-path in the side two men with heavy clubs in their hands, at whose sight the beast ran away. On enquiry he learned that it was a wolf he had seen, and that his life would have been in danger but for the men, and that besides the wolves the place (and especially the neighbouring mango groves) was haunted by bears too. It is even said that hyenas and panthers are lurking in the bushes of the neighbouring hills. Moreover, there is a village in the neighbourhood known by the name of "the wolves' village," whose neighbourhood is the frequent haunts of these wild ferocious beasts. Would that they would soon be destroyed to the safety of the homes whose place they disturb!

DACCА NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Dacca, July 7.

THE DACCА SENSATION.

The case in which Mr. A. C. Roy charged a Civil Court peon Sarada Ch. Dutt and some men of Babu Lal Mohan Shaha with having insulted him by throwing away his furniture etc., and in which he also stated that there was a likelihood for the breach of peace was dismissed by the Deputy Magistrate before whom it was pending.

The reader may also remember that Mr. Roy's moveables had been attached by the said peon in pursuance of an order of the Civil Court in connection with a rent suit brought by Lal Mohan Shaha, the details of which have already appeared in the "Patrika." But for ready reference I give a brief description of it. A notice was served by Lal Mohan Shaha and his brothers asking Mr. Roy to vacate their house of which Mr. Roy was an occupant within 24 hours. In default of this, he was asked to pay damages to the extent of Rs. 5 per diem. Mr. Roy did not leave the house and hence the suit. The case has been decided by the first Munsiff of Dacca. It has been held, as I am told, that the notice was illegal and the damages unreasonable. It has also been held as I am informed that the notice of the court asking Mr. Roy to show cause why his moveables should not be attached before Judgment was not served upon him by the peon. This peon is the same who attached Mr. Roy's moveables. It has also been held that the peon made illegal seizures, intruded upon the house, and did all to disgrace Mr. Roy. The court has therefore dismissed the suit of Rs. 100 to be paid with costs. But what about the high-handedness of the peon Sarada? The attention of the District Judge ought to be drawn to this case.

Another suit was brought by one Bhagaban Dass against Mr. Roy. The plaintiff was that he had lent Mr. Roy gold worth Rs. 242 at the recommendation of Babu Lal Mohan Shaha. Babu Roy submitted a written statement to say that the suit was maliciously instituted at the instance of Babu Lal Mohan Shaha on account of his having sued Lal Mohan Babu criminally, and that it was wholly false. This suit has also been dismissed with costs.

SOMETHING ABOUT NALINI K. DUTT OF DACCА COLLEGE.

It is rumoured in this town that the Director of Public Instruction has written a letter to Dr. P. K. Roy, the Principal of the Dacca College, to convey his displeasure to Nalini Babu and another for their recent conduct in Mr. A. C. Roy's case. This rumour gets some confirmation from the fact that Nalini Babu transferred to Chittagong. Babu Shashi Bhushan Bose comes to take Mr. Dutt's place. This brings the offshoots of the Dacca sensational case to a close. I hope the curtain will now fall and all the parties will seek the shelters of the peaceful olive.

A CASE OF CHEATING.

In this case which is now pending before Syed Abdus Samad for disposal, one Lalita Sundari Dasgupta, widow of Srinath Shaha, poddar of Radhakantapur, under Nawabganj police station, is the complainant and Jadob Ch. Shaha poddar, Chandi Charan Shaha poddar and others are the accused. The facts of the case as alleged by the prosecution are briefly these:—That the complainant sold some shares of certain Taluks to the accused Jadob and others for 600 Rs. and a "Kabula" was also written accordingly by one Girish Ch. Bose, a "gomosta" of the accused. There were some 5 or 6 witnesses to this "Kabula." But the accused, it is alleged, suppressing this "Kabula," had another "Kabula" (written by one Hari Kishor Dey another "gomosta" of the accused) in its place in which the "Khana Bari" of the complainant and other shares were included fraudulently, and the said Jadob had this second "Kabula" registered making the complainant believe it to be first "Kabula" in which "Khana Bari" and other shares were excluded. This case was instituted before Babu Mohendra Ch. Mazumdar Joint Magistrate in charge. Mohendra Babu after examining some witnesses for the prosecution issued summons against Chandi and Jadob under section 417 I. P. C. The case was then transferred to the file of Babu Girish Ch. Dutta, but Girish Babu having been transferred, the case was made over to the file of Mr. Abdus Samad. The case has created some sensation as the accused are very rich men. Babu Peary Mohan Ghosh is the pleader for the prosecution while Babus Mohendra Ch. Roy and Sarat Ch. Ghosh (Jr.) are for the defence. Several witnesses were examined for the prosecution. The case will again be taken up on 13th July when further evidence will be taken.

CHARGE AGAINST SIKHS.

At a court-martial at Bannu, Sepoy Fattah Khan, 63rd Sikhs (Frontier Force), was found guilty of "an omission prejudicial to good order and military discipline" in that he, on the 24th March, when at the Fort magazine guard between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., and in charge of 599 boxes of Martini Henry ammunition, covered with tarpaulin, omitted to keep on the alert in consequence of which omission one box of ammunition, value Rs. 22-12, the property of Government, was abstracted from beneath the said tarpaulin. In the same connection Sepoy Zarif Khan of the same regiment was found guilty of "disgraceful conduct in committing theft of the property of Government, in that at Bannu, on the 24th March, he committed theft in respect of one box of ammunition," etc. The two sepoys were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, Fattah Khan for seven years and Zarif Khan for ten years, and in addition to forfeit their India Frontier Medal of 1895, which, in the case of Fattah Khan, has a Waziristan clasp, and in the case of Zarif Khan two clasps. Waziristan and Tirah. Sir Bindon Blood afterwards reduced the terms of imprisonment to five years and seven years respectively.

HINDU MAGIC.

(By Allen Kelly.)

Familiarity with the marvels of science and mechanical invention has bred a twentieth-century scepticism that is inhospitable to the occult, and the magician no longer finds it easy to mystify even children with his tricks of legerdemain. One of the prettiest and most ingenious of illusions is being presented at a place of amusement in New York. Fifty years ago it would have been the sensation of the day, but the New Yorker who is even a casual reader of newspapers accepts the startling, apparent paradox as a matter of course, and accounts for it in two words: "Liquid air."

The only intelligent person who can be and is deceived by the sleight-of-hand tricks and monkeyshines of modern magic is the person seriously engaged in psychical research. (Duples of the ordinary fat female fakir who calls spirits from the vasty deep cannot be classed as intelligent.) I was present, some years ago, at a private interview between an eminent member of that society and the late Alexander Herrmann. The eminent and reverend gentleman was filled with the spirit of the investigator, and he sought the magician's aid in the solution of certain mediumistic mysteries. It occurred to Herrmann to test the gentleman's powers of observation, and he coolly played upon him a trick of pretended telepathy so absurdly simple that I was amazed to see it succeed.

The investigator proceeded to delude himself with misty theories of thought transference, to which Herrmann listened with non-committal gravity, and when he departed the magician said wearily: "It is idle to explain things to such people. I might expose to him twenty deceptions, but the next trick played upon him would send him groping for the occult. He thinks he wants to investigate, but he really wants to find something that he can't understand in order to justify his belief in the supernatural. It is his temperament."

Not long thereafter the reverend gentleman became an active member of the Society for Psychical Research and now he believes in ghosts.

THE FEATS OF HINDU CONJURERS.

The wonderful tales that have been told of the feats of Hindu conjurers doubtless derive much of their effect from the inability of untrained observers to report truly what they have seen. An ordinary trick of sleight-of-hand may be so described in all sincerity by one having no knowledge of the art as to be utterly inexplicable. A simple reversal of the sequence of movements may be sufficient to make the described feat an utter impossibility, and yet the relater will demand that you account for it as he thinks he saw it, or admit that the dead or the devil had a hand in it.

Herrmann went to India to see for himself what the jugglers of the Orient could do, hoping to pick up some wonderfully clever tricks, but he was utterly disappointed. Heller, Hertz, Kellar, and other Western magicians, I believe, had similar experiences in India. At least, none of them brought back any notable addition to his repertoire of illusions. Herrmann told me that the Hindu fakirs had a few stock tricks depending upon apparatus, such as the mangrove feat and the basket deception, but were not adept in pure sleight-of-hand. His feats of palming mystified them completely.

For example, a party of native jugglers boarded the steamship in port and performed some of their feats. Herrmann appeared before them with a live pigeon in his hand, twisted off the bird's head and threw the body over the ship's side, and directed their attention to the severed head which he then "vanished." He then held his empty hand outstretched, and the pigeon alighted upon his palm unhurt. The Hindus were deeply impressed, but the trick was simple. The pigeon was a pet bird, trained to come to Herrmann's hand. When he pretended to twist its neck, he tucked its head under its wing and brought into view a prepared head which had been palmed. Tossed over the side, the bird fell until it got its head out from under the wing, and so was lost to sight for a moment. While Herrmann was holding the attention of his audience by vanishing the fake head, the pigeon was soaring to get its bearings, and it came to hand at the right time.

A FINE FIELD FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

Yet there are travellers who aver that Herrmann and his fellows saw only the common jugglers of India, and that the tales of Oriental marvels are not all lies out of whole cloth. If their descriptions of what they profess to have seen are to be accepted as approximately accurate, there is a fine field for psychical research in Hindustan, and our Western mystifiers have much to learn.

Some years ago I met a veteran of the British army who had served seventeen years in India, and has seen many strange things in his time. His name was O'Farrell, and when he retired he was sergeant-major of the 84th Regiment of Foot. He was one of the garrison of Lucknow during the siege in the time of the Sepoy mutiny, and wore the "Defence of Lucknow" medal. I told the veteran what Herrmann had said about Hindu magic, and he replied that it was more than probable that nothing remarkable was done by the sort of fakirs one would be likely to see in a run about the country. But O'Farrell declared that he had seen tricks which could not be performed by sleight-of-hand nor explained by any theory based upon the methods of Western conjurers, and he referred for specific corroboration to Gen. A. Herbert, Sir Havelock Allen, Gen. Thomas Lightfoot, Gen. Barton, and other British officers of note, who, he averred, were present at a remarkable exhibition in Lucknow in April, 1859, and made notes of what they saw. I never have had an opportunity to verify the references.

Sergeant-Major O'Farrell produced what he said was his diary of 1859, and from the entries then made he verified all the essential features of his narrative of an exhibition given by a native conjurer before the officers of the garrison at the request of Lieut. Burns of the Royal Artillery. The scene was one of the officers' messrooms, selected without consultation with the performer.

A WORKER OF "MAGIC."

"The conjurer," said the old soldier, "came without any apparatus or baggage other than a casket the size of a cigar box. He was a

tall, dignified man about thirty-five years of age, and evidently of high caste. He wore a turban, flowing white robe, white pajamas, and red slippers. When he entered the room he bowed to his audience, and then directed upon each person in turn the steady gaze of a remarkable pair of dark eyes. When he looked at me I could see only those lustrous eyes, and my perception of the surroundings became confused and vague.

"The man said nothing, but at a slight sign his single attendant opened the casket and took therefrom a cashmere shawl, which he spread upon the floor. The conjurer seated himself upon the shawl, and asked in English for the loan of a rupee. Col. Montgomery marked a coin and handed it to him, and the conjurer laid it upon the shawl. He raised the forefinger of his right hand, and the coin turned up on its edge. He waved his hand, and the coin spun across the floor some three or four yards. At a sign of the forefinger, the rupee stopped spinning, and stood on its edge. A slight wave of the hand, and the coin danced back, stopped, and vanished.

"An officer asked how the trick was done, and the man replied that he had done nothing. 'But we saw you,' persisted the adjutant. 'I might say you did,' rejoined the Hindu with a smile, 'but the colonel has the rupee in his pocket.' It was as he said. All the time his gaze ranged from face to face of the audience.

"A white silk handkerchief was spread before us, and in a moment I saw hundreds of brilliant beetles of all colors crawling upon it. I nudged my neighbour, a non-com, and called his attention to the display. His head had been turned for an instant, and I feared he would miss the sight. Turning his gaze as I directed, he seemed puzzled for a moment, and then he muttered to me that he didn't see anything but a white handkerchief, and the next second the beetles faded from my sight, and I was not sure that I had seen them at all.

"The conjurer unwound a few feet of thread from a ball of spun cotton, and cast the end into the air, where it seemed to float. Presently a cobra appeared beside him its head elevated and gracefully swaying, its tongue darting out and in, and its hood spread, showing the spectacle mark. At a sign the serpent glided up the thread and balanced in mid-air, and at another sign it turned, swarmed down the vertical thread and disappeared the instant that it touched the floor.

AN ALLEGED INSTANCE OF MENTAL SUGGESTION.

"Lieut. Burns had made two attempts to leave the room, but the Hindu had caught his eye each time and the officer's purpose seemed to fade from his mind. After the cobra trick, however, Burns managed to slip out, and when he came back the conjurer was sitting cross-legged in the air, two or three feet above the floor, his left arm resting upon a short rod under cover of the shawl. Burns stepped quickly forward and snatched away the shawl. No rod was there, and the man was seated upon the floor, although I could have sworn an instant before that he was at least two feet above the floor.

"The diary shows that fourteen tricks were performed, all of them bewildering, concerning the details of which no two of us agreed exactly. The last was a striking one. The carpet around the seated conjurer became violently agitated, and presently a number of cobras—my diary says six, but others saw three, four, or five—and a green snake appeared. They glided about the man, reared and struck at him, and the green snake twined about his neck. The Hindu arose, drew from his girdle a long sword that certainly was not there a minute before, and cut the serpents in pieces. The severed parts squirmed about, and the blood oozed the white shawl crimson. It was all done in silence, as things happen in a dream.

"At a nod the attendant gathered up the shawl by the corners, concealing the snakes and the blood, and at another sign he snatched it out again as unspotted as new snow. No sign of the slaughtered reptiles remained.

"At the conclusion of the performance the man was urged to give some explanation of his feats, but he smiled and said he had done literally nothing. The officers insisted that they had seen things done, but he only shook his head, repeated: 'You thought so, but nothing whatever was done,' and went away."

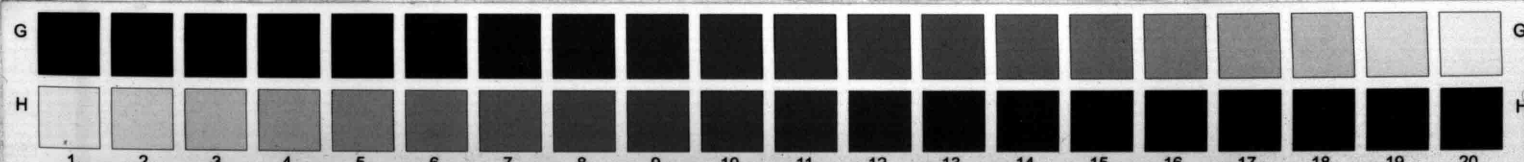
The explanation obviously to be inferred from the veteran's manner of telling the story was hypnotic suggestion. He declined to commit himself either for or against that theory, said he had no explanation to offer, and would go no further than to say he thought he saw what he had described.

Hypnotism and telepathic suggestions are occult enough to appeal powerfully to the minds of those who deem the feats of spirit mediums worth investigating, and, if one assumes the veracious accuracy of East Indian jugglery tales should be mysteriously and pseudo-scientific enough to explain the miracles of Mahatmas and Yogis.

But then, if there be liquid air in the Eden Musee, may there not be much hot air in the Desert of Gobi?

The committee of experts which has been sitting at Simla to consider the question of water supply and electric power are believed to have come to the conclusion that the area north of the Mashobra and Mahasu ranges will meet all the requirements of the case. If this should be clearly established there will be no necessity to consider any scheme for harnessing the Sutlej.

Like Bengal, the infantile mortality is lamentably very high in the United Provinces. The Sanitary Commissioner's Report of the United Provinces showed that during 1903 the death-rate of infants under one year of age was 274.4 per thousand, against 243.6 in 1902. It is noted, however, that the rise is not peculiar to the United Provinces, but that during last year it was well marked in other parts of India. A special inquiry into the causes of the excessive mortality by the Civil Surgeons and other officials seemed to show that the chief cause during the year under report was a widespread epidemic of measles, while plague, malaria, and small-pox also had their share in increasing the total. The prevalence of these diseases, however, may serve to explain the high mortality of 1903, but it does not account for the permanent difference between the infantile death-rate of Bengal or Madras and that of the United Provinces.



THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AT PABNA.

HIS REPLIES.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor replied as follows to the addresses of the Pabna District Board and Municipality:—

Gentlemen, I thank you for the addresses which you have presented to me on behalf of the District Board and Municipal Commissioners of Pabna. I thank you for the kindly welcome you give me to your town, and for the expression of your loyal sentiments towards His Majesty and the Government of India. I notice also with satisfaction the cordial terms in which you speak of the "sympathy and advice" which you receive in your work from the Commissioner, Mr. Marindin, and the Magistrate, Mr. Clayton.

There are three subjects with which your addresses deal and in respect of which you will probably expect me to say something this afternoon. The first is the question of bringing Pabna into connection with the line of rail. I have had the opportunity of discussing this matter with several of the leading citizens of Pabna and I find that they quite understand the situation. The Eastern Bengal State Railway have before them the proposal to join Sirajganj to Calcutta by a railway of unbroken gauge, so as to meet the requirements of through traffic especially in connection with Jute. Their proposal is that there will be one long bridge over the Ganges at Damukdia, which will join the railway in the neighbourhood of Gopalpur, and from the transshipment station there, they propose to carry a line of rail across to Sirajganj on the same gauge as that on the south of the Ganges. You desire either that the line from Gopalpur to Sirajganj should come round by Pabna, or that you should be connected with that line by a light railway. The former alternative seems to me to be out of the question; because it would involve an increase in the length of the line of not less than 14 miles that is from 49 to 63. It would be quite unreasonable to make such an increase in the length of the through line for the sake of meeting the requirements of purely local traffic. It seems to me therefore that, if Pabna is to be connected with the line of rail, it ought to be connected with it direct on its own account. I think also that all those who have considered the question are agreed that the best connection would be with the main line, either at Sara or Gopalpur. I have discussed the matter with Mr. Mansson; and I find that the cost would probably be about 6 lakhs. Before considering whether such a scheme is practicable, and ought to be assisted by Government in any way it is necessary to ascertain as far as possible what the traffic is likely to be, and also to have more certain information in regard to the probable cost.

Mr. Mansson is prepared to co-operate with me in collecting statistics of traffic. He will try to appoint two men of his own to register traffic between Pabna and Sara; and the District Board will appoint two men also. These agencies will, at separate stations, collect the necessary statistics; and their returns will be checked upon each other. Mr. Mansson is also prepared to send a man in the rains to run over the road from Sara to Pabna, so as to see what is the character of the road and of its bridges. This should give a rough idea of how far the road might be utilised in the construction of a light line from Pabna to Sara. He is also prepared to ask for permission to make a survey during the next cold weather, so as to enable him to give an accurate estimate of the cost of constructing the proposed light line. These measures will place me in possession of information as to the probable traffic on the line, and also as to its probable cost, and will enable me to come to a decision as to the feasibility of the line. When this information is before me, I shall be glad to give you without delay a definite answer to your proposal in regard to this matter.

The next point to which reference is made in the proposal for a water supply in the town of Pabna. It is a long time since you began to consider the question; and perhaps the fact that for this small town an elaborate scheme is not urgently required, may be gathered from the delay which you have allowed to occur. The scheme, first of all proposed, nearly ten years ago, was not very hopefully viewed by the Sanitary Board; and Mr. Silk's letter addressed to you in 1898 seems to have led to your dropping the scheme. Your attention was drawn to it again in connection with the proposal to commemorate the long and beneficent reign of the late Queen Victoria. But you do not on the present occasion refer to that proposal, or indicate what money may have been given or promised in connection with it, and may be now available for a water supply scheme. I have ascertained, in the interviews which I have had with the Chairman of the Municipality and some of the leading gentlemen of the town, that not much that is definite has been done to obtain funds or to formulate a scheme; and I should have been inclined to hold the opinion that you are not very much interested in the subject, were it not that I have found a very strong feeling existing that the water supply from the Ichhamati river is distinctly insanitary. I find on enquiry not only in the Ichhamati river may be, as you say, silting up, but also that it appears to be polluted by receiving into it the drainage of the town. I certainly think that the question of securing a purer and better water supply is one to which you and the local officers should give earnest attention. The cholera outbreaks in Pabna may be due to causes which it might not be very difficult to remove. I shall request the Sanitary Engineer to visit Pabna and to consult with Mr. Clayton and the Municipal Commissioners as to the possibility of framing a reasonable and feasible scheme for obtaining a better water supply. When his report is before me, I shall be ready to consider the best method of financing such a scheme.

The third matter to which you refer is the question of water supply in the interior. I am very glad to find that the District Board has been making some effort to improve the water supply by making contributions in aid of private effort. I am glad also to find that you appreciate the attitude which has been taken up by this Government in the offer of assistance where District Boards and private persons co-operate, in regard to the improvement of the water supply. I earnestly trust that you will be able, in accordance with the hope which you express, to induce public spirited gentlemen throughout the district to co-operate with the Government and with yourselves in the matter. The assistance which has been promised will very willingly be given by this Government. I have heard,

since I came on tour, nothing but appreciation of the attitude which I have taken up and an expression of desire that the Government, local bodies and private persons may be found co-operating in this matter according to the wish which I have expressed in the orders which I have issued on this matter. The only hostile criticism of my policy which I have heard since I came on tour is that the sum which I have set aside is too small. At the present moment there are enormous demands upon all the funds at our disposal; and large sums are not available; but at the same time I will say that it is too early to complain of the smallness of our offer until full advantage has been taken of that offer. I do not find yet that any district has made its demand for the full Rs. 5,000 offered; and until I find that, I shall not be prepared to consider that the offer is too small.

There is one other matter which I should like to commend to the liberality of the Municipal Committee and of public spirited gentlemen in the town: that is, the Charitable Dispensary. I am bound to say that this institution is not a credit to the town of Pabna. I should be very glad to hear that you are interesting yourselves in this matter, and endeavouring to improve this institution. I have now in a word to thank you again for the addresses which you have presented to me, and to express the pleasure I have had in this opportunity of meeting so many of you, and in the opportunities that I have had of private interviews with a number of your leading citizens. I wish you all good fortune and trust that you will continue, in co-operation with local officers, to give your hearty attention to the interests of your district.

THE PABNA INSTITUTION.

H.H. the Lieutenant-Governor was asked to open the "Pabna Institution" new buildings on Monday morning the 4th instant. He made the following remarks in doing so:—

Gentlemen,—When the programme of my visit to Pabna was being made out I found among the items a request to open the new buildings connected with the "Pabna Institution." I consulted the Director of Public Instruction on the subject; and he reported to me that the institution was in a decidedly unsatisfactory condition, according to the latest report which he received. I therefore decided that I should not accept the invitation to visit these buildings and to declare them open until I had satisfied myself on the spot that things were not precisely as they had been. When I came here, I asked the proprietor to let me see the Visitors' Book of his institution. I find recorded a note by Mr. Hallward, in which he says that "the College is housed in rambling tumbled down sheds with crazy wooden doors and window shutters and gaping intervals of unsightly lath walls, from which the plaster has fallen under its mean roof of plinth. It looks out into a small back yard. The class rooms are dark and overcrowded. Anything more squalid than this College and its surroundings it is difficult to imagine. I find it difficult to understand how sanction was ever accorded to the institution of a College in such a place. It is a standing example of the degradation of educational ideals." He concludes his note by speaking of the disinclination with which he had submitted himself "to the noise and asphyxiating atmosphere of these rooms." In his note he also speaks of the necessity for having an adequate teaching staff. Now gentlemen, I thoroughly agree with the views which are indicated in this note of Mr. Hallward's. So far as in me lies I shall most certainly fight against any institution for which I am in any way responsible which gathers together boys or young men under circumstances which cannot fail to be prejudicial to their health, and which are also, in my opinion, inconsistent with true moral and intellectual development.

But what do I find when I come here? I find that the proprietor, aided to some extent by liberal-minded and liberal-hearted gentlemen who are interested in this district has proceeded to remove the school and college from the insanitary surroundings in which it was previously located. He has brought it outside the town of Pabna into this open and airy locality. He has constructed buildings which contain class rooms which cannot be regarded as unsuitable, and which are fresh and airy and well ventilated compared with those in which the institution was previously located. He has done what he could to remove the evils pointed out by Mr. Hallward. I find also that local officers speak of the proprietor of this institution as a well meaning gentleman, highly respected by his neighbours; and I find leading citizens of Pabna speaking of him with respect and standing by him in his undertaking. On these grounds I have much pleasure in lending my countenance to the efforts he is making to improve this institution and, though I am unable in the present state of the building to declare it open, I have much pleasure in saying that I hope it will soon be opened and the institution placed on a much more satisfactory basis. There are two other matters to which I should like to refer briefly before I close. The first is that I think it would be well for the proprietor in consultation with the governing body some of the members of which are lawyers of distinction, to devise a scheme whereby the financial administration of this institution should be placed on a more satisfactory basis. It is distinctly desirable that its financial administration should be on such a basis that funds provided by private liberality should be so invested, or so used, as to prevent the proprietor being charitable with self-seeking or having his use of these funds in any way the subject of evil and unfavourable criticism. I do not think that there ought to be any difficulty in arriving at some system of administration which would secure this very desirable object.

The other point is—and I trust it will not be regarded as ungracious in me to say so—the other point is that I prefer not to have my name associated with the medals and prizes awarded in this institution. The request that I should do so has been made unexpectedly; and I hope therefore that the proprietor will not regard my refusal of that request as an ungracious act.

In conclusion I desire again to say that while I shall, so long as I am connected with the administration of this province, oppose heartily

CHOLERA MORBUS has lost its terrors in the home where a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is kept. It never fails even in the most severe and dangerous cases. For sale by

Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co.; Abdul Rahaman; Abdul Kareem, Calcutta.

ly the establishment or maintenance of educational institutions under squalid or insanitary circumstances, I shall at the same time welcome with the greatest pleasure every honest effort that is made to improve existing institutions. It is my recognition of the effort made in this particular case that has led me to accept the invitation to be present on this occasion and to indicate my desire that this institution may be successfully conducted.

Corporation of Calcutta.

A special meeting of the Corporation was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday at 4 p.m. The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. H. Allen off Chairman of the Corporation presided. There were about thirty five Commissioners present.

RAISING LOANS.

The first item for consideration was a proposal to obtain the sanction of the Government of India to borrow five lakhs of rupees under the Local Authorities Loans Act of 1904 to finance the Loan Funds pending the raising of a Debenture Loan.

The chairman said that that was a matter of very serious importance. The Commissioners would remember that there was a discussion at the Corporation when the chairman found it necessary to raise a loan from the Bank of Bengal. The circumstances are exactly the same here, they had faced that day. The Budget which came into effect from the first April authorised the expenditure of certain capital works and for these capital works it was estimated that the loans would be required. He hoped the Corporation would sanction the loans to be issued. The Loan Funds having exhausted and no loan having yet been raised, the Revenue Funds have already advanced nearly a lakh-and-a-half to the Loan Funds to meet capital expenditure, and further advances will be necessary before the new debenture loans are floated. There is no difficulty in making advances from the Loan Funds during the month of July. The Chairman always came in slowly at the beginning of the quarter, and it is possible that, if the Corporation delayed to our proposed debenture loans, it may be necessary to borrow money to finance the large capital works in progress. I think it is advisable therefore for the Corporation to apply at once for the sanction of the Government of India to borrow Rs. 5 lakhs upon bills repayable in 3 months. The whole of this money will probably not be required, but it is advisable to obtain sanction to borrow it, in case of need. Under Section 2 of the Local Authorities Loans Act, being Act No. III of 1904, the Corporation may, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, borrow money by means of the issue of bills repayable within any period not exceeding 12 months for any purpose for which the Corporation may lawfully borrow money under Chapter X of Act III of 1899, provided that the amount so borrowed, together with the outstanding amount of other moneys borrowed under that Chapter, does not exceed the total amount which the Corporation is empowered to borrow under Section 131 of Act No. III of 1899. The annual valuation of the town on 31st March, 1904, was Rs. 2,48, 08, 465, ten per cent. of which (Rs. 24,80,846) is the limit of the annual amount of interest and annual contribution to the Sinking Funds payable under Section 131 on debenture loans, and the total amount of annual interest and annual contribution to Sinking Funds A and B is now Rs. 19,66,465 only. There is, therefore, ample legal capacity for borrowing five lakhs by issue of bills repayable in three months by a further similar loan (if an ordinary debenture loan is not raised by that time) of the same amount for another three months under the Local Authorities Loans Act. In conclusion he asked that the sanction be asked for. Rai Hari Ram Goenka Bahadur seconded the motion.

Babu Nalin Behary Sircar added a rider which was to the effect that the interest would be four per cent.

The motion with the rider was then carried by the vote and carried. The next item for consideration was a proposal to raise a loan of Rs. 19,00,000 to repay the Government Loans.

The outstanding balances of the loans due to Government for the amounts borrowed for (1) The New Market, (2) The Municipal Office building, (3) Water-supply, and (4) Drainage were consolidated in 1879 with effect from 1st January of that year to Rs. 78,81,199-10-3 for repayment with interest at 4½ per cent by 60 equal half-yearly instalments of Rs. 2,32,156-14-0 out of the revenue fund. The 50th instalment was paid on 1st January last when the outstanding balance of the principal amount was reduced to Rs. 20,72,206-15-10, and according to the existing arrangements, the 60th or the final instalment is due on 1st January, 1909. With a view to relieve the revenue fund of this heavy annual burden of Rs. 4,64,313-12 the Corporation in 1902 asked the Government of Bengal to obtain sanction of the Government of India for raising a loan of 30 lakhs of rupees for the purpose of paying off the whole amount of the then outstanding balance of the principal of the consolidated loan due to Government, but the Government of Bengal declined to move the Government of India on the ground that the finances of the Corporation were then in a satisfactory state and that no proposals had been made by the Corporation for the expenditure of the additional revenue which would be set free. In reply to the letter, dated 4th February, 1904 from the Government of India enquiring about the condition of the finances of the Corporation in connection with the question of the present borrowing capacity of the Corporation, the present Chairman pointed out in his letter, dated 2nd instant to the Government of Bengal, that though a satisfactory state of accounts of 1902-03 and the Budget estimates of 1903-04 showed excess of the disbursements over the receipts excluding the opening balances in those years, no such excess or deficit would have appeared if the accounts and the estimates respectively of those years had been properly classified under the heads ordinary and extraordinary. In this letter of the Chairman it has been shown that the extraordinary disbursements of 2,93 lakhs in 1902-03 and 3.16 lakhs in 1903-04 necessitated by the special conditions of the consolidation of Government loans were in those years in excess of the statutory amounts of contribution to the Sinking Funds, under Section 133, on the balance of the principal then outstanding, and which, if paid out of the opening balances instead of the Revenue Receipts of those years, would have shown surpluses instead of deficits in those years.

The Statement C attached to that letter shows that the Corporation (even if prevented by the necessity of providing funds for the city improvement scheme from raising the rates over the existing 19½ per cent. on the annual valuation of the town) can go on administering the affairs of the city till 1908-09 by limiting the annual increase in expenditure to fifty-five thousand rupees for ordinary purposes, and to one lakh of rupees for interest and Sinking Fund for an annual loan of 20 lakhs. It is clear, however, from that statement that the state of the finances cannot be considered satisfactory and unless immediate relief is given to the Revenue Funds by increasing the rates or by avoiding expenditure urgently required for important works such as improving the conservancy arrangements and maintenance of roads, deficits in the annual accounts are inevitable. If, however, the revenue expenditure estimated for 1904-05 be analysed, it will be found that in addition to the contribution to Sinking Funds and interest on debenture loans, it comprises the extraordinary expenditure of Rs. 3,38,828 being the amount of repayment of principal in excess of 2 per cent., Sinking Fund on Rs. 20,72,206 the outstanding balance of the principal due to the Government of India, and that the Revenue Funds can at once be effectively relieved of this heavy burden without increasing the rates or avoiding any urgent expenditure, if the Government of India will accept the repayment on 1st July next, of the outstanding balance of the consolidated loan amounting to Rs. 20,72,206 with interest and other dues detailed further on, and accord sanction to raising a loan of Rs. 21,00,000 for that purpose. The interest and Sinking Fund on this debenture loan of 21 lakhs under Section 133 would amount to Rs. 1,05,000, the interest being calculated at 4 per cent, and Sinking Fund at 1 per cent. The immediate relief therefore, to the Revenue Funds would be by Rs. 3,59,313 (Rs. 4,64,313 minus 1,05,000 equal to Rs. 3,59,313). This annual saving of Rs. 3,59,313 (increased in 1904-05 by Rs. 26,250 to Rs. 3,85,563, the period of interest and Sinking Fund for the year being 9 months only—July to March—in lieu of 12 months) will be reduced during this year by the non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 65,175 to be incurred out of the Revenue Funds to supplement the amount to be borrowed for repayment on 1st July next of the Government Loan. Section 139 provides that the period for repayment of a loan cannot be extended without the sanction of the Government of India. The period of repayment of the consolidated loan due to Government was 30 years from 1879, of which 25 years have expired. It must be admitted that to borrow money on debentures repayable in 25 or 30 years for the purpose of repaying the outstanding balance due to Government amounts really to extension of the period of five years for repayment of the balance to twenty-five or thirty years. Under ordinary circumstances, the Corporation would not have asked the Government to sanction the extension under Section 139; but as has been pointed out above, the present condition of the Revenue Funds has made it necessary for the Corporation to apply for such sanction. That the Corporation is justified in taking this step will appear from the arguments which the Government of India used in support of their decision to extend the periods of repayment of the Government loans when they were consolidated in 1879. The exact amount repayable to Government will depend on the date on which the amount will be paid. On 1st January, 1904 the balance of the principal amount outstanding was Rs. 20,72,206. If repayment be made on 1st July next the Corporation will have to pay—(1) The balance of the principal outstanding on 1st January last Rs. 20,72,206 (2) Interest on Rs. 20,72,206 at 4½ per cent. for 6 months from 1st January to 30th June 1904 Rs. 44,085 (3). The present worth of the calculated loss to Government of extra interest (4½ per cent.—4 per cent. equal ½ per cent.) for 9 half-years from 1st July next, with half-yearly rests (if the Government will care to demand it) Rs. 21,140. Total Rs. 21,37,381. Out of this sum the last two items amounting to Rs. 65,175 (21,140 plus 44,085) will be paid out of the revenue funds, and to repay the balance of the principal, that is Rs. 20,72,206 the Corporation will have to raise a loan of that amount, or say 21 lakhs.

Mr. Apar said what was the cause of their falling into such conditions. Was their revenue diminishing? No it was rather increasing year after year about Rs. 180,000. Was not there a single man to raise a protest? The cause of their falling into such a condition was extravagant expenditure of money. He was very sorry for it. He expected that the Chamber of Commerce or the Trades Association would raise protest in cases of expenditure as they used to support the rate-payers before. But there was no such protest. For the last few years, since the golden age, (although he had no sympathy) they were acting without knowing what they were going to do. He was quite willing to support the proposal if there was a reduction of one quarter per cent.

Babu Priya Nath Mullick had great pleasure in supporting the motion.

The Chairman then moved that the Government be asked to grant the Corporation to raise a loan of Rs. 1,900,000 to repay the Government loans or in the alternative that the Government be asked to reduce the rate of interest on the Government loans to four per cent and the annual Sinking Fund to one per cent. in lieu of the payment of Rs. 2,32,000, now being half yearly.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

CHRONIC DIARRHOEA.—For several years during the summer months I have been subject to looseness of the bowels, which quickly ran into a very bad diarrhoea and this trouble was frequently accompanied with severe pain and cramps. I used to call on doctors for my trouble but it became so regular a summer affliction that in my search for relief, I became acquainted with Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which proved so effective and so prompt that I came to rely exclusively upon it, and what almost instantly relieved the cramps and stopped the diarrhoea, it never caused constipation. I always take a bottle of it with me when travelling.—H. O. Hartman, Anamosa, Iowa, U. S. A. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co.; Abdul Rahaman; Abdul Kareem, Calcutta.

SHIPPING OFFICES IN BENGAL.

We call the following from the Annual Reports on the working of the Shipping Offices at Calcutta, Chittagong, and Orissa Ports for 1903-1904.

The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office during the year amounted to Rs. 78,751, against Rs. 71,668 during the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 7,083. The expenditure showed a small increase of Rs. 5,234, the figures being Rs. 31,514, against Rs. 27,339 in 1902-1903. The receipts under "Trust Funds" amounted to Rs. 80,202, which with the balance of Rs. 12,643 unpaid from the previous year, made up a balance of Rs. 92,845. The disbursements amounted to Rs. 82,856, and of the balance remaining unpaid Rs. 941 lapsed to the State. The number of seamen shipped and discharged were—Shipped, 41,675; Discharged, 30,147.

In addition to these figures, 42 seamen were shipped and 17 discharged by foreign Consuls. The number of distressed seamen sent home increased from 46 to 65. The value of the money-orders sent by European seamen again fell from Rs. 16,154 to Rs. 7,721.

During the year a complaint was received from the India Office, through the Secretary of State, that there was reason to believe that at certain Indian ports, and notably Calcutta, commissions were given by lawars to the serangs and tindals under whom they served, and by them to ghat serangs for employment on boardship. Enquiry showed that the evil did exist, but to what extent it was impossible to ascertain. In order to remedy this state of affairs, the Port Officer, with the concurrence of the Agents of the Steamer Companies, now deputed the Deputy Shipping Master to select serangs for such vessels as require their crews to join at outposts. A printed slip is attached to the Shipping Articles to the effect that no one either on board or on shore is entitled to deduct any money; the crew being at the same time warned that all attempts at extortion should be immediately reported. One case of an attempt to extort money by threats was successfully prosecuted and the serang sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 200, and two other cases of bribery and extortion are still sub judice. A fourth case fell through, as the seamen concerned were unwilling to lodge their complaint before a Magistrate owing to frequent adjournments in previous cases.

Plague Figures.—There were 2,688 plague deaths in India last week against 2,873 in the previous seven days. Punjab reports 1,314 (a drop of 511), Bombay Presidency 691, (an increase of 247) Madras Presidency 201, Bombay City 53, Karachi 1, Aden 1, Calcutta 9, Bengal 47, United Provinces 17, Central Provinces 5, Mysore State 311, Hyderabad State 23, Central India 2, Rajputana 6, and Cashmir 7.

THE SLAVE'S REVENGE.

"The stomach," says Souvestre, "is a slave which is obliged to accept everything imposed upon it; but finally avenges its wrongs with the slyness and cruelty of a slave."

The eminent French author has happily expressed an important physical fact. There is something unique and pitiable about the position of the stomach in the human body. Upon no other organ except the lungs can you impose anything from the outside world. The lungs need pure fresh air only, and air in some form is the only thing they ever receive. On the other hand, the stomach is a general receptacle, entirely at the mercy of its owner as to what shall be put into it, when, where, and how much. A man can throw into it anything that can be swallowed—every variety of food, any sort of drink, any amount of both, up to the bag's elastic capacity; and, if he wants to he can put a layer of pebbles on top, and finish off with prussic acid.

The point is, as M. Souvestre says, that this most important of all our organs is our slave. It cannot resist; it cannot call the police, it has no recourse to the law; it just takes what comes, and abides its time. But how to take care of the health, how to prevent the outbreak of ailments, is a problem much more complex than it seems to be. Nevertheless, when the enslaved and outraged turns against its owner, with the scourge called dyspepsia, it must not be assumed, oh friend, that the owner really intended to drive his servant to desperation.

Mr. A. Vortuda, of Den Street, Burghersdorp, Transvaal, sent a letter on April 4th, 1904, this very year, remember, to the agents, at Port Elizabeth, for Mother Seigel's remedies, telling briefly the story of his sufferings; of how he really expected death, of how his stomach had tyrannized over him how it affected his kidneys and how he was finally cured. He says:—"For eleven years I suffered from kidney trouble which afterwards affected my liver, and I can safely say there was not a sound place in the whole of my system."

"I always had a great deal of trouble in passing anything from the stomach and also urinary trouble. I began to lose appetite At nights I could only lay awake and wish for morning to arrive, and when it did arrive there was no relief. I became so weak that my legs could not bear the weight of my body, and in fact my condition became very serious. Doctors were called in but I became no better, so I prepared myself for the worst. Hearing of Mother Seigel's Syrup I made up my mind that it would be the last remedy I would try, and after using five bottles of the Syrup my condition began to improve wonderfully, and I do not believe there is any person quite as grateful as Yours faithfully, A. VORTUDA."

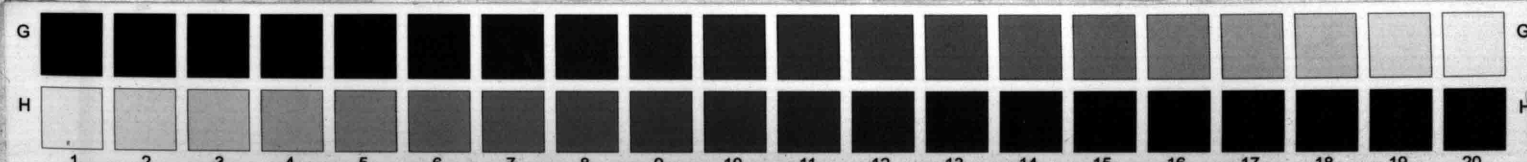
That is the news from Burghersdorp, but now you shall hear from Johannesburg. On the 29th of March, 1904 (this very year, again, remember), E. Peterson, who lives at Lower End, Main Street, Johannesburg, wrote a letter to the agents for Mother Seigel's remedies describing his own case. He, too was a slave, to the outraged stomach. He says:—"For three years I suffered greatly from biliousness and indigestion. When I sat down to table I could eat hardly anything. Attacks of vomiting made me quite weak, and I was surprised at the change it effected in my condition. On rising in the morning I was seized with dizziness and had on several occasions to go back to bed again. I tried various remedies, but remained in quite the same condition. While at Cape Town, during the war, I heard of the wonderful qualities of Mother Seigel's Syrup, and I decided to give it a trial. After the first bottle the dizziness and bilious feeling left me, and I continued using the Syrup until I felt completely cured."

It is better never to be sick, but when we do fall ill it is a grand fact that a cure is at hand in the form of Mother Seigel's Syrup, which soothes the stomach and transmits it once more into a willing and faithful servant—not a rebellious slave.

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THE GOVERNMENT REPORT ON EMIGRATION.

The Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies for the year 1903 has been published in this week's "Calcutta Gazette".

The most important measures undertaken during the year under review was the framing of rules under Act X of 1902. This Act, which became law at the end of the year 1902, makes provision for the departure by sea out of India of Natives of India for the purpose of working as artisans, or of any entertainment or exhibition, or of service in any restaurant, tea-house or other place of public resort. Rules regulating the engagement of such persons for the purposes indicated above were framed during the year under review, and were finally sanctioned by the Governor-General in Council on the 9th March 1904.

The number of Agencies recruiting emigrants was one less than in the previous year, the Agency for the Dutch Colony of Surinam, which despatched 1,254 emigrants during the previous year, having suspended operations during the year under review. The demand and supply of labour for the British Colonies were very nearly the same as in the previous year; the total number of adult labourers requisitioned and supplied during the year 1903 amounting to 9,893 and 8,794, as against 9,830 and 9,240 respectively in the year 1902. No emigrants were despatched to the Colony of Mauritius during the year, owing to the fact that arrangements could not be made to secure a vessel for the purpose before the close of the year.

The number of emigrants registered was 12,403, as against 13,807 in the year 1902, the decrease being attributed to the general prosperity of the agricultural classes during the year under review. As usual, the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh contributed the largest number of emigrants, nearly 62 per cent. of the total number of labourers registered being recruited in those Provinces.

Of 12,612 emigrants who were received in the sub-depots, 10,787 actually arrived in Calcutta; and, if emigrants who were received in the previous year, those who were readmitted from hospitals after recovery, and infants born during the year be added to these, the total number accommodated in the depots in Calcutta was 11,161, as against 13,329 in the year 1902. The percentage of deaths (.26) in the depots was much smaller than in the preceding year, a satisfactory feature of the year being the noticeable decrease in the number of cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis.

The percentage of rejections at the depots was 8.01, as against 7.44 in the preceding year. The Protector observes that the increase in the percentage is chiefly attributable to stricter medical examination of emigrants in the depots before embarkation, but that it may also point to the fact that the medical examination of emigrants at the sub-depots was not performed with sufficient care. The latter question, it may be observed, is one with which Government is only partially concerned. As noticed in paragraph 2 of Mr. Slack's letter No. 158T.-G., dated the 13th May 1901, to the Government of India, the Emigration Agents make their own arrangements for the examination of emigrants; and it is only when Government officers are employed by them, and subsequent events show that the examination made by such officers has been perfunctory, that Government is called upon to interfere. No such complaints were brought to notice during the year under review.

The number of emigrants who embarked for the Colonies during the year was 9,084, or 1,798 less than in 1902, the largest number (2,937) being despatched to Demerara. The number of returned emigrants who were re-engaged was 378, as against 435 in the previous year.

(a) During the year 4,636 immigrants returned from the Colonies with aggregate savings amounting to Rs. 7,81,643-13-8, the average for each immigrant amounting to Rs. 166-12-10. On the other hand, as many as 1,050 adults, or 22.40 per cent. of the total number of returned emigrants, brought back no savings.

(b) As in the previous year, the largest remittances by money-order came from the resident immigrants of Natal, the total sum sent amounting to over 15 lakhs. In the Mauritius the comparative smallness of the remittances is reported to be due to the fact that Indian emigrants settle there permanently with their families, and thus have no occasion to remit money to India.

THE POLICE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TOWN OF CALCUTTA.

The following is the Government resolution on the Annual Report on the Police Administration of the Town of Calcutta and its Suburbs for the year 1903:—

Mr. R. A. D'O. Bagnell held charge of the office of Commissioner of Police throughout the year. There was no change in the sanctioned strength of the force under his control, but at the close of the year there was a large number of vacancies in the ranks of the constables. These vacancies the Commissioner ascribes partly to the fact that a constable's present pay compares unfavourably with what he can earn as a darwan in private employ, and partly to more strict supervision of the force, which has led to more work being required of them simultaneously with a decrease of illicit gains. Proposals for the increase of pay of the constables are under the consideration of Government.

Judged by the increase in the number of dismissals from service of officers and men and by the large number of departmental punishments, the discipline of the force during the year was not as good as could be desired. The departmental punishments require the Commissioner's careful consideration. There were 21 judicial convictions, but few of the offences charged were of a serious nature.

The total number of cognizable cases reported during the year was 38,853, of which the large majority were as usual petty charges under the Calcutta Police Act, the Cruelty to Animals Act, and cases of public and local nuisances. The total shows an increase of 9,249 on the number reported during 1902, but is similar to the figures for the three years preceding 1901, when there was a sudden drop from 38,353 to 25,115 cases, which was attributed to abstention on the part of

the police from dealing with public nuisances, and especially with cases of traffic obstruction as the result of the severe strictures passed on their conduct in connection with the strike amongst carters and hackney carriage drivers which occurred in Calcutta in that year. The number of cases instituted under the Police Act in 1903 was 11,979, which exceeds the figures for 1899 and 1900. The figures indicate that the Calcutta Police have recovered confidence in dealing with public nuisances, and the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that under better supervision the force will keep the right mean between excess of zeal on the one hand and neglect of duty on the other.

After elimination of offences of a petty nature the statements show 6,125 cognizable cases reported in 1903 as against 4,526 and 5,221 in the two preceding years. Practically the whole of this increase is under the heads of theft and burglary cases, and is due, as the Commissioner of Police considers, to improved reporting. The explanation involves the conclusion that in previous years the reporting of these classes of offences must have been extremely bad. But it is observed that in spite of the large increase in the number actually brought to trial was smaller than in the preceding year. It is notorious that in Calcutta the serious crime against property is in great part committed by professional criminals, and there appears reason to fear that the increase is real and the result of greater activity on the part of the criminal classes, and less success on the part of the police in dealing with them. In this connection it is noticed that whereas in 1902, 299 cases of vagrancy and bad character were brought before the courts, in 1903 this number fell to 203. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that these figures are not indicative of failure on the part of the police to take full advantage of the preventive powers conferred on them by law.

In the Courts the results of the cases sent up for trial by the Police have been very satisfactory. Of the total number of police cases sent up, 97 per cent. ended in conviction. Of 93 cases coming before the Sessions 82 ended in conviction; and in the theft and burglary cases in which arrests were made the percentage of convictions was high. The number of old offenders reconvicted during the year was 749; of these, 57 were dealt with by the Courts of Sessions. More commitments of old offenders were made in the previous year, but having regard to the fact that of offenders reconvicted no fewer than 261 had four or more previous convictions against them, His Honour is not satisfied that commitment was made by the courts in all cases where it should have been.

The number of cases declared false has steadily increased during the last four years, and in 1903 rose to 167. In only 21 of these cases were prosecutions instituted; and in only 3 of the 11 cases in which the prosecution was brought to a conclusion was sentence of imprisonment imposed. Such results can have no deterrent effect against false accusations; and more frequent and thorough prosecution and more adequate punishment of persons who bring false charges are clearly required. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the Police and the Magistrates will give more attention to this matter.

There was a falling off in the numbers of youthful offenders dealt with under the Reformatory Schools Act, and under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code. These provisions of the law should be carefully remembered by the courts.

The number of non-cognizable cases instituted before the Magistrates during the year fell to 13,669 as against 14,638 in the preceding year. His Honour is glad to notice a large decrease in the number of these cases pending at the close of the year.

MATTERS MUNICIPAL.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Commissioners of the Vishnupur Municipality, the Lieutenant-Governor sanctions the extension of the provisions of Part X of the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, as modified up to 1st November 1890, to the said Municipality.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to direct, that with effect from the date of this order, Babu Arun Kumar Bose, Deputy Magistrate, shall exercise all the powers and duties of the Commissioners of the Nadia Municipality in place of Mr. C. A. Radice.

Babu Akshay Kumar Chatterjee has been elected by the members of the Brahmanbaria Local Board, to be a member of the Tippera District Board, vice Babu Kailash Chandra Dutta, deceased.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to approve the election by the members of the Brahmanbaria Local Board, of Babu Akshay Kumar Chatterjee to be their Chairman.

The Lieutenant-Governor approves the election by the Commissioners of the Bihar Municipality, of Babu Tara Prosanna Achary to be their Chairman, vice Mr. E. F. Ainslie, resigned.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to appoint Mr. A. F. McKenna to be a member of the Samastipur Local Board, vice Mr. P. Edwards, resigned.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to appoint Babu Jogendra Nath Sen to be a member of the Uluberia Local Board, vice Munshi Nurul Haq, resigned.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to establish a new public ferry over the river Padma at Char Kururia, a Government khudmahal in the Kushtia sub-division, and to direct that the said ferry shall be managed by the District Board of Nadia, and that all the proceeds of the ferry and all the fines levied and compensation received under the said Act in respect thereof, shall be paid into the District Fund of Nadia, with effect from the date of this notification.

The Lieutenant-Governor approves the election by the Commissioners of the Debbhatta Municipality, of Babu Sudhir Chandra Sarkar to be their Chairman, during the absence, on leave, of Dr. Shyama Kanta Bhattacharye.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to appoint the following gentlemen to be Commissioners of the Sitamarhi Municipality.

Babus Parmeshwar Dayal, Gobind Parshad, Rambahadur Singh, Basanta Kumar Bose, Sarjoo Prasad, Belas Ram, Arjun Dass, Maulvi Basharat Karim, Syed Basharat Karim Ahmad, Syed Ekhsaq Hussain, Shah Sarfaraz Hussain.

SOME OF THE DEEP-SEA PEOPLE.

THE ALBATROSS KING OF THE OCEAN WAVE.

No bird that flies is more rightfully entitled to the proud name of the King of the Sea than the beautiful subject of the present story. Nor are there any of the inhabitants of the air whose home is about the raging billows to whom more mystery, more poetical personality can be attached than the albatross. There is something about it which differentiates it from all other sea birds, yes, from all other birds that fly. Principally because, in spite of its great size, it is at home only on the wing, and does not seem to require any rest. In this latter particular it is closely approached by the tiny stormy petrel, but one can hardly compare the little untiring fluttermaster that skips so blithely from crest to crest of the waves with the great calm bird that hovers so majestically in mid-air, needing not to give on single flap of its wide-spreading wings in order to maintain its position there against the utmost force of the storm. Nothing can be better calculated to impress the beholder with the marvellous wisdom of the Creator in fitting His creatures for their position in the world than the sight of an albatross bearing a ship company in the lone Southern Ocean. Let the vessel, handled by the most courageous and skilful captain put on what speed she may before the tremendous thrust of the westerly gale, level with her mizenmast head and a little to windward is poised her snowy companion, apparently motionless, except for an almost imperceptible bending of the wings or tail for steering purposes.

The bird seems to be held in the vicinity of the ship by some un-understandable magnetic force, in no other way does its effortless maintenance of station appear possible in relation to the vessel while the latter is fleeing over the ocean. Of fifteen to seventeen miles and then if caught by a sudden swell, the bird gives a horizontal position and stretching forward its wide-webbed feet, descending almost straight upon the spot where its piercing eye can see something that may be eatable. If that something has sunk, the albatross will dive, despite the hampering of its huge wings, and by great exertions swim downward. Then, when the food has been secured, the bird takes off from the crest of a wave, melts into the air, as it were, without any exertion, and, although the ship by this time may be out of sight, an inappreciable portion of time served to bring it to station again. Or in the midst of its steady accompanying of the vessel it will suddenly swerve to one side or other, as the case may be, and disappear, so swiftly yet so easily that the eye can barely follow it. The time passes; there is a sense of loss, for, indeed, in those latitudes during a heavy gale, their normal weather, the sea seems very lonely; when presently behold our friend is visible in his old station, his beautiful snowy head, with its dark, solemn eyes turning gravely from side to side in keenest watchfulness. As he went, so he returns, so he remains, without effort, and the mind grows bewildered in the attempt to understand how he can, apparently with such consummate ease, resist the fury of the wind.

HOW THE ALBATROSS FLIES.

Not that it would be correct to say that the albatross never does flap his wings. When rising from the sea, if the latter is calm, it appears necessary for him to put forth all his undoubtedly great strength in order to effect his purpose. Spreading his wings wide, he commences to run along the sea-surface, the beating of his feet against the water being audible a long way off on a calm day. At the same time the great wings flap heavily as a pelican's, until, by one supreme effort, the body is lifted into the air, and immediately assumes its normally calm pose, that makes it appear as if the bird by the slightest alteration in the plane of its wings and tail is able to make the air bear it whithersoever it wishes to go, even in the teeth of an on-rushing storm. But, before we go any further, a little description of the bird is necessary, for I have discovered long since that it is not wise to take for granted that readers know the appearance of even the commonest of sea-birds, although almost every good general museum possesses one. The albatross is about the size of a medium goose, but not so "stocky" built, and with a much shorter neck. The beak is pale yellow in color, from eight to ten inches in length, with nostrils of the upper mandible, about two inches from its root. The upper mandible has a formidable looking hook at the end, which curves down over the point of the lower mandible to a length of one and a half inches and tapers to a very keen point.

At the junction of the mandibles with the head they are capable of great expansion, permitting the bird to swallow masses of food such as blubber at least four inches square, although I believe I have seen them swallow larger pieces than that. But the peculiarly distinctive feature of the albatross is its great pair of wings. They have three joints, and when widespread the front edges make almost perfect right angles with the body. And their extent from tip is sometimes as much as sixteen feet, or over five yards. Their breadth from front to back is about eight inches, but at the last joint they begin to taper off to a point. The color of the upper part of the wing is invariably a dark brown, which often extends across the back, while that of the rest of the body is pure white. The feathers are very thick and deep beneath them there is a coating of the softest down, as fine as the best of that obtained from the elder duck. But I regret to say that this pure, soft, white down is the home of a multitude of parasites, from which none of the birds are free. The flesh of the bird is, as might be expected from its habits, exceedingly tough; in color it is nearly black, becoming quite so after a brief exposure to the air. Also it has a very rank, oily flavour of stale fish, making it quite unpalatable to the ordinary person. French sailors, however, with the culinary aptitude of their nation, hang it until it is nearly putrid and then make stews of it, which they profess to find excellent.

WHAT THE GREAT BIRDS EAT.

The albatross seldom obtains a meal of fresh fish, his movements in or near the water not being smart enough to secure them. Consequently he is confined to feeding upon offal

And such offal! The carcass of a whale a few days after death as it floats upon the sea is extraordinarily offensive, but whenever one is found it is always the centre of a clamorous multitude of sea-birds, and when this happens to be in the haunts of the albatross these birds are always in the majority, for they angrily drive away all others. It seems rather a pity that so splendid a creature should be such a foul and greedy feeder, but so it is. It never seems to have had enough, even though it should have so loaded its stomach that it cannot rise from the water. It sits there almost helplessly, now and then giving utterance to a harsh scream as if of rage at its inability to eat any more. And very often it may be seen to disgorge a quantity of what it has swallowed, and immediately rush upon the carcass again as if eager to renew its rapacious devourings, at the same time dealing savage blows right and left at its neighbors. It seems to think that none have any right to be at the great banquet but itself. Dr. Hartwig says that the albatross alights in considerable numbers upon the body of a dead whale and there tears its food from the giant carrion. But this is wrong. In the southern hemisphere, where alone the albatross is found, the only bird that can and does alight upon the body of a whale is the evil-smelling fulmar, or giant petrel, an ugly bird as big as an ordinary duck and armed with a dirty greenish beak, with which it tears and rends the blubber, to the envious disgust of the other birds who cannot perform the same feat.

I would not like to assert that the albatross has a superior development of the senses to other sea-birds, but I believe that he has. At any rate, in common with all soaring carrion eaters, he possesses the power of discerning, either by sight or scent, or some other sense unknown to us, food at immense distances. Again and again I have noted when whaling in the southern seas that during the chase there has been scarcely a bird visible anywhere, even from the crow's nest. But by the time the whale was dead the number of albatrosses around the ship was countless. They drifted towards us out of the vast void and settled upon the water until oftentimes we seemed to be the centre of a great snowfield. And these those feathered hosts awaited patiently, silently, the preparation of their banquet. Yet in this promiscuity of arrival they were far behind the sharks, who appeared upon the scene from the solitude of ocean directly the flow of blood had tainted the water, and as soon as the whale was dead, began to tear at the limp body of the huge mammal. But when once we began to cut at the carcass the eagerness of the birds could no longer be restrained. With hoarse shrieks they crowded over one another, even under the blows of the sharp spades, and I have several times seen a man, who with a bowline round him has been lowered down upon the whale in order to insert a blubber hook into the throat, overwhelmed by a rush of albatrosses, borne by an incoming sea right upon him, and he has had to grab armfuls of the ravenous birds and hurl them away from him before he could accomplish his task. But unless by an accident, such as the piercing of the case and the consequent leakage of the spermaceti, which floated astern like cakes of wax, the hungry hordes never got more than an occasional scrap or so until we had done with the body.

SEEN ONLY IN THE ANTARCTIC.

The albatross is never seen alive north of the equator. Up to a certain latitude he can venture, but he is essentially a cold-water bird and no sooner does he find the temperature rise above a temperate degree of warmth than he retires south again into his well-behaved regions of cold and storm. The heat of the tropics would be at once fatal to him. Many attempts have been made to bring one of these wonderful birds home alive, all have been failures; for one thing it is impossible to induce the albatross to take food on board ship, nor if he did eat could he retain what he had swallowed. The first thing done by the captured albatross when landed on deck is to eject the total contents of his stomach, as if the motion of the vessel, even on the calmest day, was sufficient to make him violently sea-sick. Other sea-birds are liable to the same disability, but none in so marked a degree as the albatross.

As a spouse he occupies the highest place, except that he only pairs for the season, and the constant companionship of the male and female is pretty to see. He seems to realize his position of protector and provided in the highest degree, and not until the incubating period is over does this loving union cease. The female lays but one egg, about as large as that of a goose, apparently in the first suitable spot she finds upon the island where she was born. But she does not bother with nest building any more than the majority of sea birds, a little hollow in the sand or a ledge of rock suffices, and there she sits upon her single egg, fed and kept company with by her ardent spouse until the day when from that egg there appears a funny little ball of snowy down with two intensely black beady eyes and a gaping beak that seems to split its head in two halves. The father now departs, disgusted apparently at the sight of this rival in the affections of his wife. She then devotes all her energies to feeding the baby, no easy task, one would think, where there are oftentimes several thousands of her own kind, to say nothing of myriads of other sea birds close at hand. But she succeeds so well that after six weeks or so the youngster is bulkier than herself, looks in fact, like a large and almost shapeless, except for the head, bundle of down, which retains its pristine snowy whiteness so as to be almost dazzling. All this time it is almost helpless from its fatness and the weakness of its legs. But presently wings begin to sprout and feathers to appear. Soon it is ready for its first lesson in flight, and trembling, with tottering steps, it toddles after its mother to the sea. Upon this element, no sooner it is launched than it seems to lose its ungainliness of outline, and to develop with amazing rapidity those characteristics which will presently raise it so far above the other denizens of the free heavens. At last it has learned to soar into its proper element, the sky; fully fledged and strong-winged it takes its place among its fellows, and its mother, her work done, spreads her mighty wings and departs, to meet it knowingly no more.

Hitherto I have spoken entirely of the albatross, the head of the family, but now we come to the other two species with which

am acquainted. I do not know the scientific names for them, have never been able to ascertain them, but to sailors frequenting the Southern seas they are both very well known by the names of Mollinaus or Malleinucks, and Cape Hens. The first is an exceedingly beautiful bird differing scarcely at all from the albatross, except in point of size and a little more variety of marking. It is also much more active, flapping its wings far more frequently than does the albatross, and rising from the water with much less effort and consequently greater rapidity. I have been told that it is sometimes found in the Far North, but I have never seen it there, so I cannot say whether the statement is a fact or not. Personally, I should be inclined to say that it is not found any farther north than its great relative. It is exceedingly plentiful in the "roaring forties," being far more often seen by ordinary merchantmen than the albatross. It is a constant attendant upon ships for the sake of the scraps brown overboard, but except in a gale it does not keep anything like so stately, a poise about her. It is continually on the go, wheeling about the ship, darting away and returning, and oftentimes it may be seen snatching a morsel from beneath the very feet of a descending albatross, which drops into the water with an angry protesting cry and watches grimly the quick fluttering way of the interloper. It rarely exceeds in the breadth of its wings, and they do not stand out quite so straightly from the body as do those of the albatross. It is so rapid in its movements that it is often caught while the vessel is going as much as four knots an hour through the water, when it requires almost a dead calm to catch an albatross, the latter being so very deliberate in his movements.

DEATH FROM A GUN SHOT WOUND.

On Monday evening, the sad death of a European gentleman occurred from the effects of a gun shot wound. The deceased, Mr. H. R. Todd, was an employer in Bengal Pilot service. He was living at 71 Garden Reach and was a member of the Calcutta football team. A few days ago he was admitted into the Presidency General Hospital, while suffering from an attack of malarial fever. On Monday he seemed better and having obtained leave for two hours went home. At about 6 p. m. on the same day a report of a gun was heard in his room and shortly after the deceased was noticed lying unconscious with a serious wound on his head and a double barrel gun lying beside his body. Medical aid was promptly given but it could not save him from the jaws of death. Inspector Hamilton held an inquest over the body and the result of the enquiry was that the deceased met with an accident death, which was duly recorded.

A big case of alleged theft of gold from the Kolar gold mines is now being specially tried at Arkonam, Ohala Reddi, a rich merchant and abkari contractor of Kolar, being the accused. About a year ago the police searched his house on suspicion and found a large quantity of gold and jewellery alleged to be made of Kolar gold.

Mr. Kelway Bamber, the Ceylon agricultural chemist, who with Mr. A. C. Kingsford set out on a mission of inquiry eastward from Ceylon, a couple of months ago, left Hong Kong on the 4th May for Formosa. He spent some weeks in the Straits and also visited Java. From the Malay Peninsula he went on to Hong Kong and thence has crossed over to Formosa. He was to stay some weeks in that island, and then expected to go over to Shanghai. From Shanghai he will go northward, visiting various Chinese tea centres, and will then visit Japan. He will return to Ceylon about the end of September or early in October, coming back by way of America and visiting Europe.

Two police constables on quarantine duty on "The Falls of Keltie" off Madras Harbour are in trouble over an alleged theft of stores from the vessel. The story goes that the Chief Officer of the vessel found that the ship's stores were being pilfered and accused the crew, who denied all knowledge of it. The Chief Officer warned the men and instructed them to bring to him anyone who might be caught pilfering. On Thursday afternoon, the men were evidently on the alert, and two constables were discovered filling flour in bottles. The Chief Officer was at once apprised of this. A complaint was made to Captain King, the Commander of the vessel, who at once complained to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Madras. An investigation has been ordered, and the constables in question were removed from duty.

THE AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA

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